

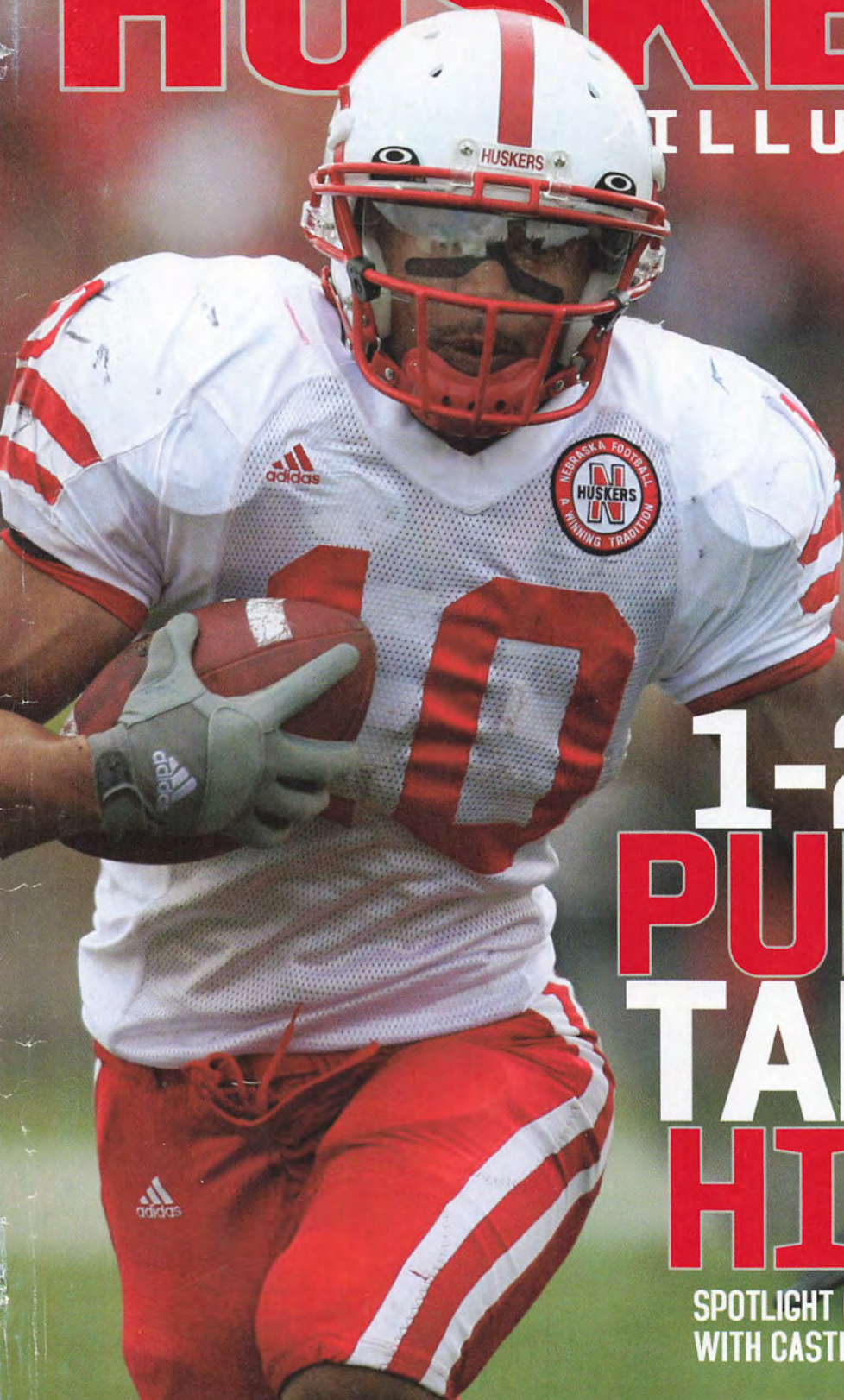
FLORIDA ATLANTIC PREVIEW



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



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AUGUST, 2009 | VOLUME 29 | NO. 7 | \$3.95





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AUGUST, 2009 • VOLUME 29 • NO. 7

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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 29, Issue 8 recapping the Florida Atlantic game will be mailed on Tuesday, Sept. 8 because of Labor Day. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

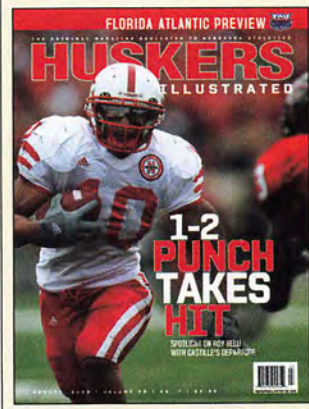
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ON THE COVER

Fans have been hoping for great things from Roy Helu since last season. But with the departure of Quentin Castille, the spotlight will be a little brighter and the load a little heavier on the junior from Danville, Calif.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



ABOUT FACE

One great story won't be written this season



WE HAD A GREAT feature story planned for this issue.

Actually, Brian Rosenthal wrote a great feature for this issue. We had terrific photos and a great cover, designed to portray one of Nebraska's brightest stars.

But as we were preparing to go to press, we had to change course.

Our feature "About Face" on Quentin Castille was no longer relevant because coach Bo Pelini dismissed him from the team.

Rosenthal wrote about how Castille, despite earlier troubles, was making a fresh start, both physically and mentally. By all accounts, he entered the fall in the best shape of his career.

It was a heck of a story.

Castille even saw the possibilities.

"From a mental aspect, I had some bumps and bruises," he told Rosenthal. "Things are starting to shape up for me now."

Unfortunately, it appears that his decisions not only let down his teammates and coaches, but they also will force him to make a fresh start somewhere else.

It's a disappointing story. During

our photo shoot, I couldn't help but be impressed by Castille's cooperation and attitude. I've worked with countless athletes over the past 17 years, and it was as good of an experience as possible.

The whole experience reminded me of a time when I heard a coach say Bob Schaefer, now the Los Angeles Dodgers bench coach, tell a Kansas City Royals pitcher: "You're too smart to be so stupid."

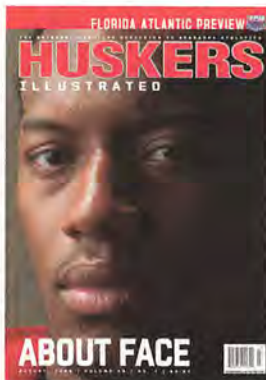
Actually, Bob's version included a few more colorful adverbs, but you get the idea.

I'm not trying to kick a guy while he's down, but Castille was a key in Nebraska's offense this year, with endless opportunities.

One of his last comments to Rosenthal proved to be ironic.

"Everyone asks me what's my confidence level and stuff like that after the Gator Bowl, and coming into fall camp and stuff," Castille said. "And I'm like, 'Man, I'm starting from ground zero.' I can truly say that." **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.



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Big Red Mailbag

SEND US YOUR LETTERS!! Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. **IF WE PRINT YOUR LETTER, WE'LL SEND YOU A SPECIAL HUSKER GIFT!** Send digital photos and letters to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.



FAN FORUM

I voted undecided because if it were to be in the new Texas stadium every year then the Huskers can get good exposure to the Texas recruits – but they have to make it there first. On the other hand it is nice when it is in K.C. It's more of a home game and the south teams would be forced to play against the elements - advantage Huskers. To me it is a toss up.

BACK2#1

I just experienced Cowboys Stadium at last night's Paul McCartney concert. Can't explain how amazing it is.

You really have to experience it for yourself. Close to DFW Airport, Arlington is already a great area and improving. Hands down no competition for this one. Cowboys Stadium every year.

WAHOO75

I can see both sides. The exposure is great for the Huskers when they play (and hopefully win) down in Texas. However, I still would rather the game move around. We still get plenty of exposure during the regular season, we just need to win those games.

Go Big Red
GASTONS

We are talking about football here, right? Crazy weather conditions are one the great things about football. As a fan, think back to the most memorable games. Often, they will be memorable at least in part due to weather conditions, ie snow in Boulder, game delayed in Lincoln due to lightning, wind and cold in Ames, etc. etc. Isn't this just one more reason we love football more than other sports?

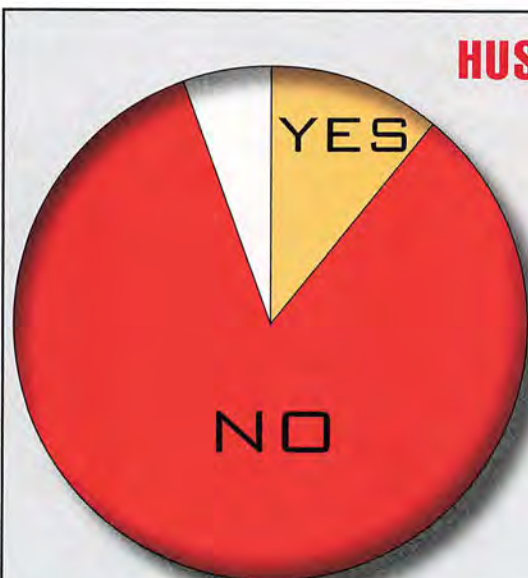
BORNHUSKERRED

I enjoy your magazine as a member of the Husker Nation in Oklahoma. Not much to read south of I-40. I sit in my closet and write poetic verse 'til fall.

Year two Pelini - anticipation

galore; Big 12 easy if Huskers can score; Suh will anchor with lively suspense; as new stars develop our blackshirt defense; offense the question and Bo must explore; a run style attack never seen before; the option and wishbone can be combined; alternation of quarterbacks will blow their minds; a nine and four finish will be tough; Big 12 competition will be very rough; a surprise offense will be our best hope; starting in Blacksburg making Beamer a joke; we'll see you in Lincoln on November seven; 8-0 Huskers could win 11; my poetic predictions are not very neat; but beating the Sooners would be a real treat.

MICHAEL WACKER
"The Closet Husker"
Krebs, Okla.



HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM FAN POLL

Should the Big 12 name a permanent site for the Big 12 Championship Game?

YES 85 (11%)

NO 647 (83%)

UNDECIDED 43 (6%)

HUSKERS

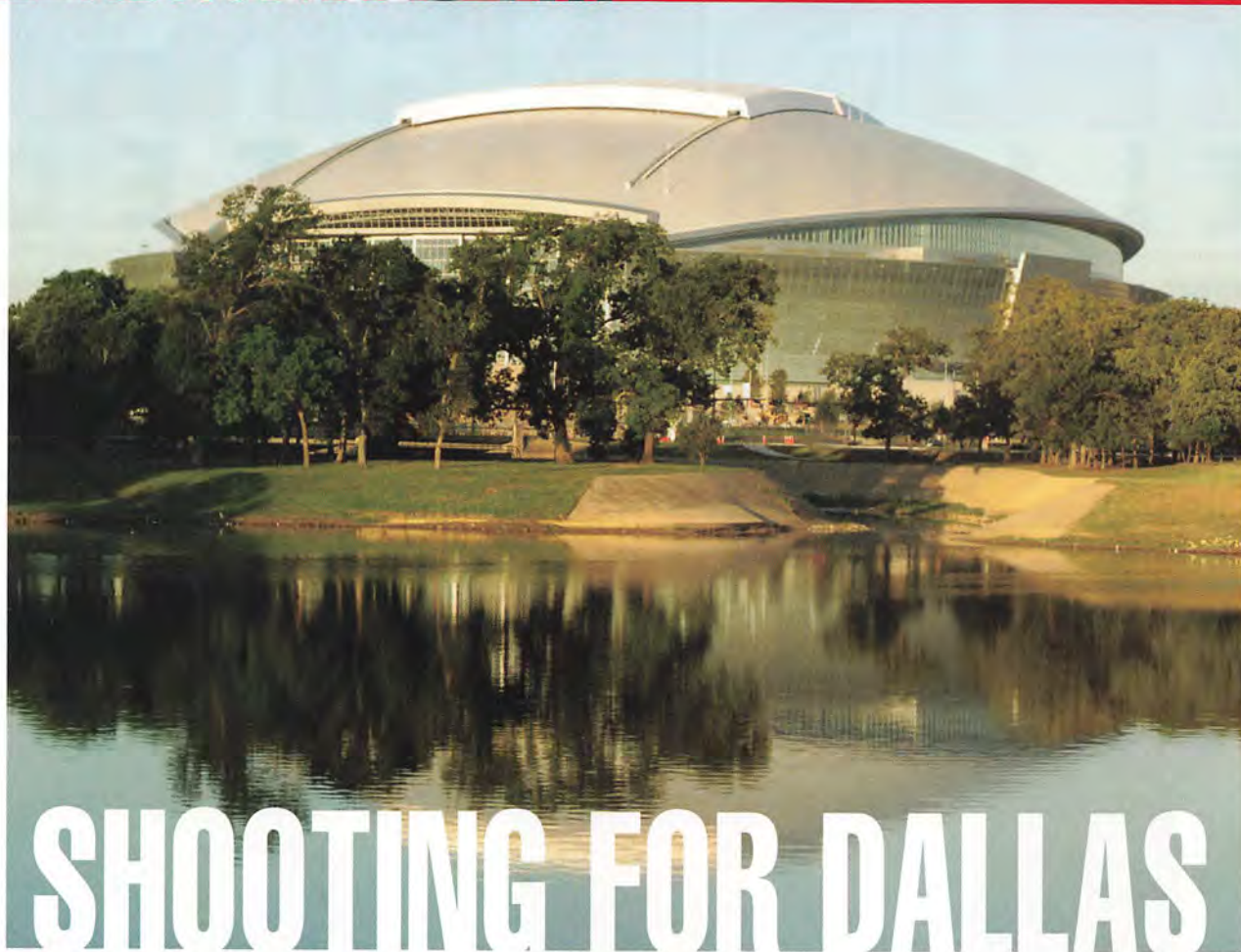
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COMING SOON!





SHOOTING FOR DALLAS

The Big 12 championship game is scheduled to be played at the Dallas Cowboys' new, \$1.15 billion stadium (pictured) in Arlington, Texas, on Dec. 5. And Nebraska is expected to represent the North Division, at least according to conference-area media representatives.

The Cornhuskers received 17-of-32 first-place votes, and 172 points, in a poll conducted prior to Big 12 Football Media Days in late July. Kansas was picked second in the North, while Texas and Oklahoma were tied for first in the South Division – Texas, however, had more first-place votes.

"I didn't know that until I got here, but that's pretty interesting," Nebraska I-back **ROY HELU, JR.** told reporters on day one of the three-day event in Dallas when asked about the North Division.

Did he think the Huskers should be divisional favorites?

"No, I think that's media talk," he said.

It certainly wasn't a topic of conversation in the locker room.

Nor should it be. "Believe me, if they start talking about being the North favorite, I can ground them pretty quick," coach **BO PELINI** told reporters, also in Dallas. "It's not about all that. We're going to win it or lose it on the field. It's about what happens on Saturdays.

"All the predictions and all those things, I could care less."

The conference will be competitive, he said. "I believe the depth of the league is better than it was the first time I was here (in 2003), but it was pretty well-rounded my first go-around.

"It's a good league, and I believe it's only getting better."

So, Bo, how much better than the North Division is the South?

"Is it? We'll find out," said Pelini.

Last season, Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech were all top-five ranked teams nationally at one point, "so obviously, it played out that the South was better," Pelini said.

"It's a new year coming up, though, right?"

What are the Huskers' expectations this season? During an interview before Nebraska's first pre-season practice, junior guard **KEITH WILLIAMS** said they were "chasing a championship."

That led to the following exchange with reporters.

Question: You say, "Chasing a championship," are you guys (players) thinking Big 12 championship, national championship, what do you guys . . ."

2MinuteDrill



BIG 12 RECOGNITION

Senior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** was chosen the Big 12 pre-season defensive player of the year in a vote of conference-area media representatives, while Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, the 2008 Heisman Trophy winner, was chosen the conference pre-season offensive player of the year and Baylor defensive tackle Phil Taylor was chosen pre-season newcomer of the year. Suh and junior place-kicker **ALEX HENERY** were the only Cornhuskers on the pre-season All-Big 12 team.

Former Cornhusker defensive end **GRANT WISTROM** was the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year in 1996 and 1997, the conference's first two seasons, while former Cornhusker quarterbacks **ERIC CROUCH** (1999, 2001) and **ZAC TAYLOR** (2006) have been named conference offensive player of the year.

Williams, interrupting: We're chasing a championship.

Question: Nothing more specific than that?

Williams: Championship.

Question: So championship?

Williams, smiling: Championship.

(Laughter)

SID **KEITH MANN**: Anything else for Keith?

Quarterback **ZAC LEE** followed Williams in front of reporters and was asked if the team would consider the season a failure if it didn't win the Big 12 North Division title.

"Good question," he said. "That's definitely one of our team goals, so I definitely think it would be us not reaching a team goal. It would be a disappointment."

Question: What kind of championship was Keith (Williams) talking about?

Lee: Championship? I don't know. You'd have to ask Keith.

Lee's words drew more laughter.

The reporters already had.

BIG 12 MEDIA PRE-SEASON POLL

NORTH DIVISION

*NEBRASKA (17)	172
Kansas (12)	164
Missouri (3)	124
Colorado	100
Kansas State	81
Iowa State	33

SOUTH DIVISION

Texas (17)	174
Oklahoma (15)	174
Oklahoma State	130
Texas Tech	89
Baylor	75
Texas A&M	33

*Nebraska has now been picked to win the Big 12 North eight times in the 14-year history of the conference and has played in the championship game four times: 1996, 1997, 1998, 2006.

SIDELINES



OUT FOR THE SEASON

At the start of pre-season practice, redshirted freshman quarterback **KODY SPANO** was praised for his hard work in coming back from the torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee that sidelined him during the spring. During the fourth practice of fall camp, he suffered a tear of the same ligament while running in a non-contact drill. Coach **BO PELINI** said he could be back for winter conditioning.

Spano was competing for a back-up job behind **ZAC LEE** at quarterback, along with **LATRAVIS WASHINGTON**, **CODY GREEN** and **TAYLOR MARTINEZ**. His place on the roster of 105 allowed him to practice before the start of classes was filled by freshman walk-on quarterback **RON KELLOGG, JR.**

"I'm not worried about us. I'm worried about him. He worked his tail off to come back," Pelini said of Spano. "I feel bad for the kid."

2MinuteDrill



Fan Day Fun

An estimated 7,500 were on-hand for fan day, held at Memorial Stadium before the Cornhuskers' first pre-season practice. In addition to signing autographs, junior linebacker **BLAKE LAWRENCE** collected them, asking youngsters to sign a roster card for him. "I was telling them, 'You're going to be a future Husker, so now I have your autograph,'" said Lawrence, who has been cleared to play this season after suffering a third concussion in 12 months during spring practice.

Among the more unusual things at fan day, according to junior place-kicker **ALEX HENERY**, was a fan taking a photograph of his right leg. "He was down on his knee

taking a picture," said Henery, who kicked a game-winning, 57-yard field goal against Colorado. "It was kind of weird."

Henery also signed a fan's painting of the school-record field goal. "That was really cool," he said.

Among the items junior quarterback **ZAC LEE** signed was an old leather boot, red of course. "We also signed a red purse, a big red leather purse," said Lee. "This year it wasn't bad.

"A few years ago, there has been some stuff I kind of scratched my head about; someone actually had **JOE (GANZ)** sign their kid last year, which was a little weird."

SIDELINES



WIDE RECEIVERS OFF-LIMITS

Sixteen wide receivers are competing for playing time this season. At one point during pre-season practice, none of them were talking to reporters, however. "The last thing they need to do is be reading any clippings," receivers coach **TED GILMORE** told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

"They just need to concentrate on getting better. They all read everything that's printed."

COMPETITION IS KEY

With the exception of defensive tackle, where **NDAMUKONG SUH** returns, every job was open during pre-season practice, according to coach **BO PELINI**. "Absolutely, there's competition at every spot," he said. "Nobody has a job locked in... this game can reach up and bite you.

"The competition's great, and if it continues, it's just going to make us better."

Defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** reiterated that the first week of drills.

"There isn't a starter out there who doesn't have someone breathing down their neck, so I don't think there's any complacency going on," he said.



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MORE SUH STUFF

NDAMUKONG SUH is among nine Big 12 players included on the 2009 Outland Trophy Watch List, announced in mid-August. "I think he can be as special and as good as anybody I've ever been around with the talent he has and the kind of ability he has," coach **BO PELINI** said at Big 12 Football Media Days in Dallas. "He has all the tools. He has the make-up. He's mentally tough.

"I tell him all the time that his biggest challenge is the special ones are guys who never, ever take a play off and play and have that kind of mindset every time they walk on the field. That was one of the things I told him he needed to work on when he came back. . . he plays hard. But there's always that next level you can get to, and we're pushing him

day and night to get there."

The Outland Trophy, presented to an interior lineman on either side of the ball, is the third-oldest award in major college football. It has been presented annually since 1946.

The other Big 12 players on the list: Brandon Carter (G), Texas Tech; Russell Okung (OT), Oklahoma State; Kurtis Gregory (G), Missouri; Chris Hall (C), Texas; Gerald McCoy (DT), Oklahoma; Adam Ulatoski (OT), Texas; J.D. Walton (C), Baylor; Trent Williams (OT), Oklahoma.

The Southeastern Conference placed 10 on the list.

Suh also is on watch lists for the Lott Trophy and Chuck Bednarik Award, presented annually to the top defensive player in college football.

SIDELINES



AMONG THE MISSING

In addition to redshirted freshman quarterback

KODY SPANO, junior offensive lineman **JAIVORIO BURKES**

(pictured), a two-year letterman who earned first-team Freshman All-America recognition from *The Sporting News* and has started seven games during his career, will miss the season because of medical issues. Whether or not his playing career is finished, "I don't know," coach **BO PELINI** said.

Sophomore linebacker **MATT HOLT**'s season is in doubt because of an off-season injury. Holt played in nine games as a true freshman walk-on. Two other walk-ons, brothers **JUSTIN** and **JORDAN MAKOVICKA**, left the team during the summer.

Reportedly, Justin, a fullback who would have been a junior, planned to play football at Nebraska-Omaha, while Jordan, an I-back who would have been a redshirted freshman, planned to play baseball at Creighton University.



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DILLARD: "THERE WAS NO DOGHOUSE"

First off, **PHILLIP DILLARD** was not in **BO PELINI**'s "doghouse" last spring.

"I don't have a 'doghouse,'" said Pelini. "I don't believe in them."

And even if Pelini had a figurative "doghouse," Dillard wouldn't have been in it.

"All that 'doghouse' bull, I was just laughing when you-all wrote that," Dillard told reporters at the beginning of practice in early August. "I'm sorry. There was no 'doghouse.' "

There was, however, a situation involving Nebraska's most experienced linebacker.

Dillard, who started five of the first eight games at middle linebacker last season before being sidelined by an ankle injury, spent spring practice working with the lower units.

He was healthy. That wasn't the problem. But he wasn't where he should have been.

His apparent demotion, without explanation from Pelini, was a topic of discussion and media speculation. But "it didn't surprise me," said Dillard. "I'm the one that came in and didn't do exactly what they (coaches) had asked me (to do). It's not like I was in trouble with the law or anything like that. I just didn't handle my business, as far as taking care of business as a man should.

"And I got punished for it. I've got to accept the responsibility. All I can do is work hard and ask for forgiveness to my teammates and everyone else, just keep going with what the coaches ask me."



One thing the coaches asked was that Dillard lose weight, something that had been an issue in the past. In the spring he weighed 248 pounds. He began pre-season practice at 234.

"I've never been in this shape before. It feels great coming out of practice," he said. "Normally, you're tired, like, 'Got to get in the cold tub.' But I feel great. I've got to thank the other guys pushing me and the coaches making me lose weight. It's for my own good."

He also got encouragement from home.

"The way my dad has taught me and my little brother Gabe (Lynn, a high school senior) is you work for everything; you work hard, and having someone push is even better because all it's going to do is make me work harder, and it's going to make me a better person," Dillard said.

His dad told him to "keep a good attitude and keep working hard . . . don't let nobody bring you down," he said. "Those (things) speak louder than what you say. I said, 'OK.' "

Dillard didn't duck questions about his demotion. He addressed it after the first practice.

What did he mean by not taking care of business?

"I don't know, just anything, weight . . . if I didn't do something they asked me, it may have come off with the wrong impression that I was upset, just anything," he said.

So was he "in good" with the coaches now?

"It was good then . . . (I) just need to keep working hard," he said.

There is no "doghouse." There never was.

2MinuteDrill



N



North Platte, NE



VIC HALLIGAN, a North Platte native, was Nebraska's first acknowledged football All-American. The 182-pound Halligan played tackle on "Jumbo" Stiehm-coached teams in 1912, 1913 and 1914. The teams had a combined record 22-1-1, and Halligan was

named all-conference in each of those seasons, becoming the first of 21 Cornhuskers selected first-team all-conference at least three times.

Halligan was captain as a senior, when the team's only blemish was a scoreless tie with South Dakota. Nebraska credits him with earning All-America honors from the legendary Walter Camp in 1914, although he actually received that recognition a year after he finished playing. Camp included him on the 1915 All-America third team, published in Collier's magazine.

"Camp had the year wrong, but everybody agreed he picked the right man," according to Go Big Red, a history of Nebraska football published in 1966.

The university student yearbook for 1915, the Cornhusker, wrote: *The captain of the mighty team; That played so well the noble game; They won the Scarlet and the Cream; Great glory and undying fame; To Halligan all honor, then; His like we'll never see again.* **N**

DID YOU KNOW? North Platte is a railroad town, home to the Union Pacific's Bailey Yard, the "largest railroad classification yard in the world," according to the railroad's website. The yard covers 2,850 acres and handles 10,000 railroad cars every 24 hours. "If the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers were to play here, they'd have enough room for 2,800 football fields," the website notes.

NORTH PLATTE, NE

County: Lincoln (county seat)
Population: 24,079
Distance from Lincoln: 220 miles

NU football lettermen:

Ted Britt, C (1953)
John Edwards, FB (1954-55)
@*Vic Halligan, T (1912-13-14)
Roland Locke, HB (1923-24-25)
*Jim McFarland, E (1968-69)
William Norris, T (1916)
Jack O'Holleran, WR (2003-04)
Kade Pittman, IB (2004)
Dave Redding, DE (1973-74-75)
*Leo V. Scherer, E (1920-21-22)
*Dan Schmidt, OG (1974-75-76)
George Shaner, E (1925-26-27)
Pete Tatman, FB (1964-65-66)
William Taylor, G (1954-55)
Harry Tolly, QB (1957-58-59)
*Charles Toogood, T (1947-48-49-50)
Herbert VonGoetz, G (1941-42)
*Larry Wachholtz, S (1964-65-66)
*Kerry Weinmaster, MG (1976-77-78-79)
Charles Wright, T (1942)
*First-team all-conference
@All-American

WORTH NOTING: Larry Wachholtz was a co-captain in 1966, when the Cornhuskers went into their final regular-season game at Oklahoma undefeated and ranked No. 4 in the Associated Press poll.

SIDELINES



COACH ACCOUNTABILITY

Linebackers coach

MIKE EKELER during pre-season practice: "I coached like crap last year. I'm serious. I have to pick up my game."



NOT AMONG THE 105

Freshman **CHRIS WILLIAMS**, one of the most prominent members of the 2009 recruiting class, was not included on the roster of 105 who participated in pre-season practice. The linebacker from Abilene, Texas, was recovering from a knee injury and "at that point at the end of his rehab where we're trying to make sure there are no issues with him, he's 100 percent," coach **BO PELINI** said.

"We don't want to put him out there at risk ... he's still coming along."

Williams was in Lincoln, however.

2MinuteDrill

TURN BACK THE CLOCK



When Nebraska plays Louisiana Lafayette on Sept. 26, the 300th consecutive sellout at Memorial Stadium, the Cornhuskers will wear uniforms patterned after those worn by Nebraska in 1962, the year the on-going NCAA-record sellout streak began.

An auction for the throwback uniforms – jerseys, pants and helmets – is running through early October and can be accessed on Huskers.com. Minimum bids are \$500.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

LARRY JACOBSON, Nebraska's first Outland Trophy winner in 1971 and a defensive tackle, on Ndamukong Suh, to the *Omaha World-Herald*: "If he plays as well as he can, I'd put him in the top four or five, along with (Rich) Glover, (John) Dutton and Neil Smith."

IN MEMORIAM

Wayne Blue, a halfback on the Nebraska team that played Stanford in the 1941 Rose Bowl game, died in late June at age 89. Blue was a Tecumseh, Neb., native.

SCHEDULING

Nebraska non-conference opponents Florida Atlantic, Arkansas State and Louisiana Lafayette all are from the Sun Belt Conference. "You can't play four Top-10 teams, but you have to play enough good football teams to get yourself ready for league play, and I believe that's what we're accomplishing right now," Bo Pelini said at Big 12 Media Days in Dallas. "I think we've got a good mix of teams coming in this year. I think they're all pretty good football teams, and I believe they'll give us good benchmark to see where we are going into league play."

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



ACCORDING TO SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska was ranked No. 34 nationally in *Sports Illustrated's* "College Football Preview" issue. The Huskers were picked to finish in a tie with Kansas and Missouri atop the Big 12's North Division. The Jayhawks were picked to play in the conference championship game.

SI named **BO PELINI** as the conference's "coach on the rise." **NDAMUKONG SUH** was among five "top performers from unranked teams in the conference."

QUICK PICKS

(Season/Week)



Aaron Babcock
(0-0/0-0)



Mike Babcock
(0-0/0-0)



Sean Callahan
(0-0/0-0)



John Talman
(0-0/0-0)



Matt Davison
(0-0/0-0)

Baylor at Wake Forest	BU 24-22	WF 37-30	WF 27-21	WF 31-24	WF 27-24
Colorado State at Colorado	CU 35-17	CU 28-17	CU 31-21	CU 38-21	CU 31-17
Illinois vs. Missouri	MU 24-17	ILL 31-30	ILL 45-38	ILL 35-31	ILL 34-31
Florida Atlantic at Nebraska	NU 35-17	NU 48-13	NU 45-20	NU 49-17	NU 34-17
BYU vs. Oklahoma	OU 56-24	OU 45-24	OU 41-21	OU 49-21	OU 51-24
Georgia at Oklahoma State	OSU 42-35	OSU 21-17	OSU 37-34	OSU 31-28	OSU 41-34
Oregon at Boise State	BSU 35-24	BSU 42-27	BSU 38-35	BSU 35-24	OU 37-34
Alabama vs. Virginia Tech	UA 24-21	UA 17-14	VT 27-23	UA 28-24	UA 24-17

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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Four lists you can't live without

LISTS ARE SO handy I sometimes wonder how people function without them.

For instance:

Without them, you wouldn't know the 101 places you have to visit before you die.

You couldn't show 'the boss,' "See, I really did check that off."

You wouldn't know where to start with beers or potato chips.

Or college football teams.

Lists are everywhere - even for you guys who finally reach the recliner near the end of the day, anticipating doing absolutely nothing. And you know what I'm talking about. "What do you mean you're relaxing? I've got some things here that need attention."

While you're thinking about that one, I thought what better way to start the 2009 football season than to take a stab at some lists involving the Huskers? As always, there's debate material here. But at least allow me this. If I had decided to put together a list for the major college coaches with the best push-broom mustaches, it would have to be topped by Florida Atlantic's Howard Schnellenberger. Agreed?

5 SEASON STORYLINES

1) Can Nebraska win big with a first-year starting quarterback? In the Big 12's 13-year history, Oklahoma's Sam Bradford (in 2007) is the only one to lead his team to a title in his first season as the starter.

2) What will the loss of I-back Quentin Castille mean to the running game around which the 2009 Huskers supposedly were being built? Castille was the bruiser in the

1-2 knockout punch that he and Roy Helu were supposed to deliver.

3) The Ndamukong Suh factor: As opponents send wave after wave trying to preoccupy the pre-season Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, will someone else ready to step up?

4) The Bo factor: His head-coaching debut last season ended with quite a run. Now what? In a league that gets the best of most defensive-minded coaches, will his overall approach, especially with a young group of linebackers, be the thing that carries the Huskers to the next level?

5) The receiving corps: Nate Swift and Todd Peterson combined for 125 catches and 14 TDs last season. Is Nebraska's system now such that the next ones in line, Niles Paul and Menelik Holt, will automatically produce more eye-popping numbers?

5 BELL COWS

(You need these guys leading the charge)

1) Zac Lee, quarterback: He's unproven, but the clear No. 1 in a system that requires a clutch decision-maker.

2) Roy Helu, I-back: Keeping his hamstrings nice and loose could be the key to Nebraska's ability to control the ball.

3) Jacob Hickman, center: There's nothing like an accomplished center to help break in a new quarterback.

4) Ndamukong Suh, defensive tackle: Quite simply, his presence will dictate how teams go about trying to attack the Huskers.

5) Mike McNeil, tight end: This is one of the deepest positions on the team. But McNeil has hands that set him apart.

5 NEWCOMERS TO WATCH

1) Rex Burkhead, I-back: The Texan was earning plenty of praise before Castille's dismissal. Now we'll really get a chance to see what the coaches were talking about.

2) Sean Fisher, strong-side linebacker: After being granted a medical redshirt last season, he stands to have a decent chance of taking as many snaps as anyone on defense.

3) Will Compton, middle linebacker: He's in a deep field with Phillip Dillard and Colton Koehler, but coaches will find a way to get him on the field.

4) Eric Martin, middle/strong-side linebacker: As a true frosh, he might be more prone to make a mistake here and there, but his athleticism can be dazzling.

5) Brandon Kinnie, wide receiver: Big-bodied JUCO transfer took to NU's system quickly and could be that 'X' factor in a mostly inexperienced group.

5 KEY GAMES

1) at Missouri (Oct. 8) - Tough night setting for a Big 12 opener against a team that's gotten over the Husker Mystique.

2) at Virginia Tech (Sept. 19) - Many NU fans consider this the biggie, as it provides an early gauge against a Top-10 opponent.

3) Texas Tech (Oct. 17) - The Huskers have to win if they expect to be in the thick of things come late November.

4) at Kansas (Nov. 14) - Feel free to move this one up as well - so long as the top picks in the North hold serve.

5) at Baylor (Oct. 31) - These Bears, with sensational quarterback Robert Griffin, are definitely not to be fed. **N**

Castille's fumble opens backfield

BY MIKE BABCOCK

THE PRAISE WAS GENUINE, not just Roy Helu, Jr. endorsing a teammate and friend.

"No, I mean it," Helu said in response to a reporter's question following practice on the second Friday of pre-season camp. "He's really good. And this season you'll see."

Turns out, Nebraska fans won't see, at least not first-hand.

Helu was referring to Quentin Castille, "Q," a fellow junior and I-back. "He's a better player than me right now, and has been for a while," Helu had said earlier, prompting the question.

"Oh man, he's really good, pass protection . . . he's awesome," said Helu.

"His biggest thing was holding onto the ball, and he's done that. He's become more of a complete player, hasn't fumbled once since we've been here in fall camp."

Maybe Castille hadn't fumbled literally, but he had figuratively, big time.

A day after Helu's heartfelt endorsement, coach Bo Pelini announced that Castille had been dismissed from the team for violating unspecified team rules.

"We have a culture we have set up here. It's pretty black and white, my expectations and what we lay out as a staff," Pelini said. "If someone doesn't follow those policies and guidelines, they're no longer going to be with the football team. And that's the case with Quentin. The book is closed on that."

There would be no further discussion, Pelini said, not by assistants, not by players.

Castille's dismissal was the culmination of unexplained events that included his leaving Lincoln during the summer for personal reasons. "People need time off to clear their mind and come back and have a fresh start on things," he told Huskers Illustrated early in pre-season camp. "That's the way I approached it. I left and came back, and now I feel like I have a fresh start."

"It's like my freshman year all over

spiritual awakening.

In his own words, Castille returned "a little tougher" than when he left. And, by all accounts (not just his), he was in top physical condition when pre-season practice began. He reported at 235 pounds, some 30 fewer than when he arrived as a freshman in the summer of 2007.

Despite the absence at the beginning of the summer — being away even briefly is atypical, particularly on the part of key players — Castille was in the good graces of the coaches, by all indications. "He's always been a hard worker in practice,

but he's just kind of realizing maybe not putting himself first and realizing his role," running backs coach Tim Beck told Huskers Illustrated.

"Last year, he was very patient and worked extremely hard. And when he got his opportunity, he proved it. A lot of guys would have fussed over that."

Castille's sophomore season culminated with 125 yards rushing on 18



again, almost."

During his time away, he visited an uncle in Atlanta, he said.

Also, he and Helu established a close friendship, by phone and text message.

"It's like, I knew him as you guys knew him last year. This summer has been the biggest growing experience in his life, and this spring was for my life," said Helu.

Castille became "one of my best friends," Helu said.

Their friendship was based, in part, on a

carries in the Gator Bowl game, which he started because Helu was sidelined by an infection.

Castille averaged 4.4 yards per carry and scored six touchdowns, in a rotation that included Helu and Marlon Lucky, who finished his Cornhusker career and tried, unsuccessfully, to earn a job with the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals as a free agent. Lucky was released in late August.

Helu and Castille were expected to provide Nebraska with an I-back tandem

reminiscent of the Cornhusker I-backs of old, on the order of Derek Brown and Calvin Jones in the early 1990s.

Brown and Jones, who earned the nickname "We-backs," each rushed for more than 1,000 yards in 1992 – both left following their junior seasons, declaring for the NFL draft.

Helu, Nebraska's leading rusher last season (803 yards, 7 touchdowns), and Castille were still developing as a duo. But the subject of an appropriate nickname had been broached.

"I had one over the summer, when Q was visiting Atlanta," Helu said. "It was awesome. It was the best thing I ever heard for a duo. I forgot or else I would have told you guys."

"I forgot the very next day. It was awesome. I'm serious. It was really good."

Now, half of that duo has departed, leaving Helu as the No. 1 I-back with, apparently, no certain No. 2. When this issue of Huskers Illustrated went to press, the competition continued.

The only certainty was that Helu's back-up would be young and inexperienced. The candidates included: sophomores Austin Jones, a walk-on, and Marcus Mendoza; redshirted freshmen Lester Ward and Collins Okafor; and true freshmen Rex Burkhead and Dontrayevous Robinson.

Mendoza, who had moved to wide receiver in the spring, officially

returned to I-back on the day Castille's dismissal was announced. His return was already in the works, according to Pelini.

"It was more of his choice," Pelini said.

At that point, Burkhead was "clearly the No. 2 running back," said Pelini. "He's tough. He learns well. But we've got a long way to go before we play a football game."

Offensive coordinator Shawn Watson also had praised the 5-foot-11, 200-pound recruit from Plano, Texas, earlier in the pre-season. "He gets football," Watson said.

"He's doing things you really wouldn't expect him to do until maybe a year from this time."

During Big 12 Media Days in Dallas in late July, Pelini said: "If you want to win championships, at some point you have to be physical enough to run the football."

With Helu, who missed a couple of practices during pre-season camp because of a tight hamstring, and Castille, the Cornhuskers were going to be able to do that.

"I love our running backs," said Pelini. "I feel real good about those guys."

Castille is no longer among them. "He's a good kid. He's just not going to be with our program anymore," Pelini said. "I wish him luck in the future."



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Will Henry

6-5, 215, Junior, Wide Receiver, El Paso, Texas

HI: Is being a wide receiver as glamorous as it sometimes sounds?

HENRY: No. It's all about detail. The main thing we're supposed to do is catch the ball, but we have to work to get open, and it comes down to details like knowing everything about the routes, being able to read coverage and being able to get off of press-end coverages.

HI: You saw a little playing time last year. Was it a shock to see the difference of play from high school to college?

HENRY: It was a lot different. Aside from fans screaming louder than I ever heard before, just being out there on the field and seeing the adrenaline and how fast everything moves was a total change. It kind of made me nervous when I first came in, so now I've had a chance to adapt and just get used to the game.

HI: You're one of the tallest guys on the team. Do you have much trouble finding clothes to buy?

HENRY: I do, actually. Whenever I have to find pants, I usually have a problem with that, so I usually try to buy a lot of shorts. But as cold as it gets up here, I usually wear my sweatpants that the school gives me all winter long. Custom fit is the way to go, but that's expensive right now. One day, when I got enough money to do that, I'll custom fit my clothes.

HI: Where do you see yourself after college?

HENRY: I'd like to go to the (National Football League), or if not, my major is nutrition exercise and health sciences, so I could be a trainer or a dietician.

HI: What's a hobby you have outside of football?

HENRY: I like to go fishing and go to amusement parks, stuff like that. I like to relax and do stuff outdoors. Disney Land is probably the best amusement park I've been to, but I'd like to go to Disney World – that would be sweet. I love roller coasters.

HI: What would make 2009 a successful season?

HENRY: Team-wise, I'd like for us to win it all and win every single game. Personally, I'd like to get in there and get a lot of catches and touchdowns and help the team win. The main thing is detail my game and do everything a coach asks me to do, like perform in practice when it's under pressure. If the coach can trust you to be good in practice, he can trust you in the game. That's something that I realized over the last year.

HI: Do you have another wide receiver you try to emulate your game after?

HENRY: My favorite wide receiver for a while was Chad Johnson. His character has been a little iffy, I guess, but I just like to watch a lot of the good receivers and try to take something from them that I can use myself. But Chad Johnson and Jerry Rice and Larry Fitzgerald are probably the tops. I'd like to be a mix (of elite receivers). Randy Moss is tall, so he goes up for balls like I would like to. I want to get my routes down like Jerry Rice and have hands like Larry Fitzgerald.

HI: Who is your funniest teammate?

HENRY: A.J. (sophomore I-back Austin Jones) always has impersonations of all the coaches and is the most hilarious guy ever. Some of his best are coach (Shawn) Watson, coach (James) Dobson and coach (Bo) Pelini. If he does those guys, he'll have you laughing.

HI: What is one of your biggest pet peeves?

HENRY: Arrogant players, or guys who are cocky for no reason and in a bad way. There's nothing wrong with being confident, but arrogance is something that gets to me. Walking that line is something I really dealt with and I'm not so proud of from high school. I was probably a little bit arrogant and I had to find a fine line between that and where I could be confident but not too far. That's a pet peeve for me because I used to be like that.

HI: What's been your favorite part of being a Husker so far?

HENRY: I've just enjoyed the way the last three years went for me. I think God's definitely always had his plan for everyone, so I like how the last years have gone. I can see that even though I haven't had one catch in the last three years, I think that what all has led up to this moment right now has all been perfect.



Guy Rozier

Going back to the way we were

ASK FORMER NEBRASKA football letterman Guy Rozier what his business philosophy is, and the answer is so immediate that he doesn't even clear his throat.

"My philosophy is 'all in,'" he said. "'All in' means we leave it on the table and bring it back to the way it was. It means deep down inside, being the Husker fan you always were and always will be."

Rozier, the first-year Assistant Director of Development for the Nebraska Athletic Department, uses "it" in a general sense to describe Nebraska football, the lynchpin sport in a \$75 million annual budget.

Selected for his new job from a list of 95 applicants, Rozier's passion and belief were factors in his hiring last spring to be one of the lead fund-raisers for the athletic department.

"Our job is to serve the general public in all capacities," Rozier said. "We all do better when we put our egos aside and keep our focus on what we're really here for – the student-athletes and the fans. They're the ones who will continue the legacy of Nebraska athletics."

Rozier has been in the business world long enough to know that superlative performance commands extraordinary support.

That's the way it was when Guy joined his brother, Mike Rozier, at Nebraska in 1981, and that's the way he believes it will be again.

"My greatest memory from Nebraska was when Tom Osborne decided to go for two points in the national championship

game against Miami and lost," Guy said. "Even in losing, it showed what Nebraska is all about – a program that will settle for nothing less than the best."

For the Rozier family that year there was, however, a nice consolation prize. When Mike won the Heisman Trophy a couple weeks before that memorable 31-30 Orange Bowl loss to the Hurricanes, he asked Guy to come up and get the trophy from him and take it to his mother, Bea, who was sitting in the audience at the Downtown New York Athletic Club.



Guy may have lived in Mike's football shadow at Nebraska, but Guy always has been a front-runner when it comes to business.



DAN SCHNEISS

LETTERS: 1983, 1985

POSITION: Strong Safety

CURRENT: Assistant Director-Development, Nebraska Athletic Department

WIFE: Edie

He has worked for Entertainment Tonight, Eddie Murphy Productions and Paramount Pictures in California. He also has worked for the United States Olympic Committee, the Special Olympics International World Games, the United States Olympic Delegation and Marriott International Hotels.

In addition to serving in various sales and business development positions, Guy Rozier and his wife, Edie, owned and operated a radio station and various retail outlets in New Haven, Conn., before moving to Lincoln.

"I feel blessed to work in a department headed by Tom Osborne, a man I've respected almost my entire adult life," Rozier said. "Who wouldn't come to work here every day with a smile, happiness, enthusiasm and respect for others who work here and come to visit?"

"Everything seems to be pointing to us getting back to the way we were as a program," Rozier said. "That's why I'm all in, and why everyone else is, too." **N**

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Texas floods market with early commits

SINCE MAY, I've been a Dallas resident again.

I was looking forward to being in Texas, covering recruiting for HuskersIllustrated.com and, of course, for Huskers Illustrated the magazine. The excitement was really brewing because I was watching how many Texas prospects Nebraska had signed in the last two recruiting classes (17 if you're keeping track at home; 15 made it and are on campus as we speak).

This meant plenty of opportunities for me to head out to get one-on-one interviews, produce photo galleries so fans could get an inside look and, of course, see these guys in action way before they put on the scarlet and cream.

Currently, Nebraska has six commitments for the 2010 class.

One is from Texas.

There are still plenty of targets out there from the talent-rich state to whom Nebraska either has offered or could offer. Regardless, the first Husker commit from the Lone Star State last year made his decision in May. So it is a little different than I expected.

Since I like to break down the numbers and see the big picture, I started trying to find if there was a contrast between Texas and the rest of the country in recruiting this year.

What I found certainly opened my eyes and will give you something to ponder as the 2010 prospects are entering their senior years.

The state of Texas currently has more

than 220 high school football players who are part of the 2010 class already committed to a particular school.

How big of a number is that for this point in the recruiting process?

While the state is obviously known for producing a lot of Division I signees, let's compare this with where the other top talent-producing states are before the fall season has begun.

If you combined California's and Florida's total commitments at this point, Texas would still have close to 40 prospects more. Florida has 105 prospects committed already, and California hasn't yet hit the century mark, with 79.

Let's add to those numbers something else to think about when it comes to analyzing Nebraska's position as an out-of-state school annually looking to land Texas prospects.

Only under a quarter of those Texas prospects with their commitments in the books have pledged to a school not in-state or in an adjacent state. Some schools in the Big 12 North, such as Kansas and Missouri, have several prospects that make up that smaller group of commits from Texas.

Let's also be realistic. The odds that Nebraska will land its fair share of Texas recruits when all is said and done are pretty good, especially when you look at some of the targets the Huskers are still on or with whom they could jump in the mix.

But the question remains: Is this year an anomaly, or are Texas prospects really getting things out of the way earlier?

A better question might be: Why are so many prospects from Texas committing early?

In any year, you always have to look at exactly what the factors are. Schools that reside in bordering states, such as Louisiana and Oklahoma, are taking big classes. LSU, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are all at or over 20 commitments as I write this.

To really hammer the point home, of Oklahoma State's 20 total commitments (as this issue goes to press) only five are *not* from Texas.

So maybe it's just a year where all the pieces fell together for Texas prospects to commit earlier than normal. Maybe it's a coincidence.

Of course the University of Texas's push for early commitments on junior days certainly puts pressure on other schools to do the same. Not to mention it's no secret in Texas (similar to Nebraska where football is big) there is a lot of pressure on high school coaches to keep their prospects playing in state.

There have been several great Texas high school football players on Nebraska's roster during conference and national title winning seasons. Under head coach Bo Pelini, don't look for that to change.

However, if this year is a sign of the future, it might be a sign that Nebraska must evolve with its overall strategy as to how it approaches Texas talent. Because compared to other states producing similar amounts of talent in 2010, the Lone Star State is leading the way. **N**

Breaking down NU's recruiting success by state

Because of its small population base, Nebraska recruits from coast to coast. The Cornhuskers have had at least one football letterman from all but four states.

Each state is represented the number of all-time football lettermen and a prominent letterman. The years each lettered and the hometown follows. Hometowns are not identified in official university records from each state, particularly in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

After Nebraska, of course, California has produced the most Cornhusker lettermen (94), followed by Texas (79), Iowa (62) and Illinois (56). After Nebraska (37), Texas has produced the most Cornhusker All-Americans (10), followed by California (6) and New Jersey (5).

ALABAMA (6)

Andra Franklin (1977-80), Anniston

ALASKA (1)

Zack Bowman (2005, 2007)

ARIZONA (16)

*Mike Brown (1996-99), Scottsdale

ARKANSAS (4)

Willie Ross (1961-63), Helena

CALIFORNIA (94)

*Steve Taylor (1985-88), Fresno

COLORADO (46)

*Dave Butterfield (1974-76), Kersey

CONNECTICUT (2)

Doug DuBose (1984-85), Uncasville

DELAWARE (0)

FLORIDA (21)

*Tommie Frazier (1992-95), Bradenton

GEORGIA (7)

Dana Brinson (1985-88), Valdosta

HAWAII (5)

*Dominic Raiola (1998-00), Honolulu

IDAHO (0)

ILLINOIS (56)

*Ed Stewart (1991-94), Chicago

INDIANA (5)

**Jared Tomich (1994-96), St. John

IOWA (62)

*Trev Alberts (1990-93), Cedar Falls

KANSAS (49)

*Sam Francis (1934-36), Oberlin

KENTUCKY (0)

LOUISIANA (15)

*Neil Smith (1985-87), New Orleans

MAINE (2)

Willie Greenlaw (1955-56), Portland

MARYLAND (3)

Donta Jones (1991-94), LaPlata

MASSACHUSETTS (5)

Mike Croel (1987-90), Sudbury

MICHIGAN (22)

**Wayne Meylan (1965-67), Bay City

MINNESOTA (33)

*Larry Kramer (1962-64), Austin

MISSISSIPPI (5)

Correll Buckhalter (1997-00), Collins

MISSOURI (36)

**Grant Wistrom (1994-97), Webb City

MONTANA (3)

Mark Gilman (1992-95), Kalispell

NEBRASKA (1,161)

**Johnny Rodgers (1970-72), Omaha;

**Dave Rimington (1979-82), Omaha;

*Dean Steinkuhler (1981-83), Burr;

*Zach Wiegert (1991-94), Fremont;

*Eric Crouch (1998-01), Omaha

NEVADA (5)

*Dave Humm (1972-74), Las Vegas

NEW HAMPSHIRE (0)

NEW JERSEY (35)

**Mike Rozier (1981-83), Camden

NEW MEXICO (1)

Bobby Newcombe (1997-00), Albuquerque

NEW YORK (5)

John O'Leary (1973-75), Port Washington

NORTH CAROLINA (4)

Terry Luck (1974-75), Fayetteville

NORTH DAKOTA (3)

Bill Janssen (1969-71-72), Grand Forks

OHIO (25)

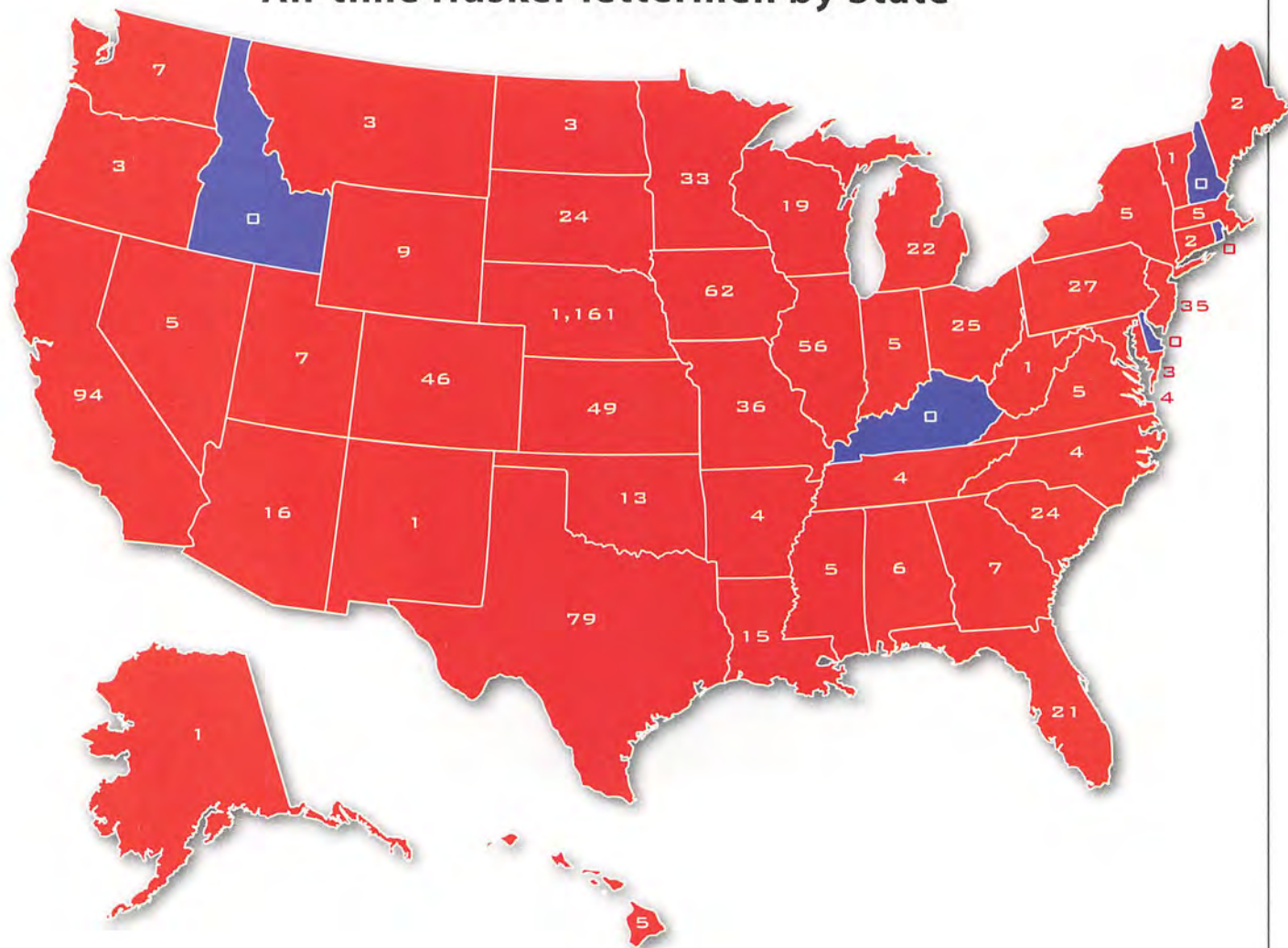
*Bob Brown (1961-63), Cleveland

OKLAHOMA (13)

*Will Shields (1989-92), Lawton

WINNING THE RECRUIT VOTE

All-time Husker lettermen by State



OREGON (3)

Ndamukong Suh (2005-present), Portland

PENNSYLVANIA (27)

*Fred Shirey (1935-37), Latrobe

RHODE ISLAND (0)

SOUTH CAROLINA (4)

I.M. Hipp (1977-79), Chapin

SOUTH DAKOTA (24)

*Larry Jacobson (1969-71), Sioux Falls

TENNESSEE (4)

*Josh Bullocks (2002-04), Chattanooga

TEXAS (79)

**Aaron Taylor (1994-97), Wichita Falls

UTAH (7)

Stewart Bradley (2003-06), Salt Lake City

VERMONT (1)

Jeff Hughes (1969-71), Burlington

VIRGINIA (5)

Brian Washington (1984-87), Highland Springs

WASHINGTON (7)

Adam Carriker (2003-06), Kennewick

WEST VIRGINIA (1)

*Tony Jeter (1963-65), Weirton

WISCONSIN (19)

*Jerry Tagge (1969-71), Green Bay

WYOMING (9)

Troy Dumas (1991-94), Cheyenne

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (4)

*Jimmy Williams (1979-81)

**Earned All-America honors from at least one sanctioned group*

Huskers pick up three

BY RICK SHAW

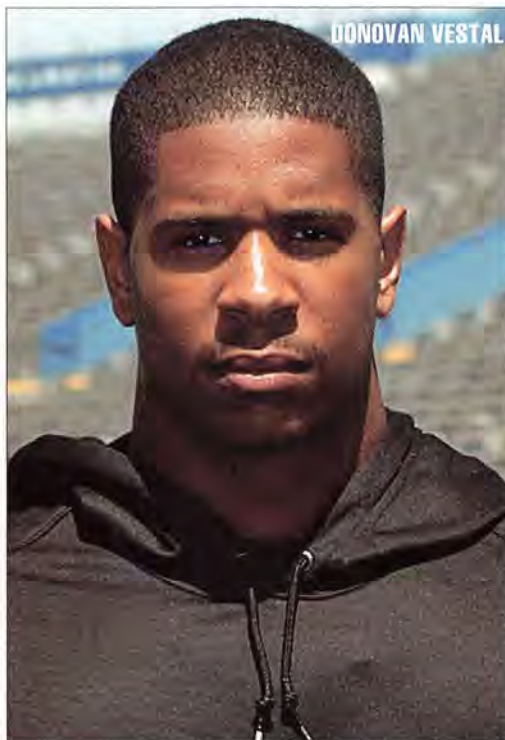
The Nebraska coaching staff took three steps forward and one step back in their recruiting efforts over the summer. The Huskers picked up pledges from a heralded signal caller out of Missouri, a top athlete out of Nebraska and a coveted defensive end prospect from Texas, but lost the commit of a four-star wide receiver from the Kansas City area.

The 'Big Red' class currently stands at six members with over five months to go before National Letter of Intent Signing Day in February. The Huskers are expected to take 18 to 20 athletes in their 2010 recruiting class.

As with last year's summer commitment of **CODY GREEN**, the Huskers were able to reel in a quarterback early in the recruiting cycle. Four-star gunslinger **TYLER GABBERT** (6-foot, 190 pounds) out of Ballwin, Mo., Parkway West High School cast his lot with Nebraska during the first week of June.

"They were both pumped and fired up," Gabbert told Huskers Illustrated after notifying **SHAWN WATSON** and **BO PELINI** of his decision. "They said that they were crossing their fingers all day because I was the guy they wanted. They had made pretty clear to me throughout the whole process that I was their guy."

Gabbert, rated the nation's No. 17 pro-style quarterback prospect by Rivals.com,



completed 55-percent of his passes for 1,850 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior. He chose the Huskers over offers from Oregon, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and others.

His older brother, one-time NU commit and now Missouri's starting quarterback, **BLAINE GABBERT**, gave his blessing to his younger brother's decision to wear scarlet and cream.

"Blaine was fired up for me," Gabbert said. "He just wanted me to pick the best place for me. Yeah, I kind of have thought about maybe playing against him in the future.

"I'm just pumped to get it over with and to know I'll be playing for Nebraska

the next few years."

TYLER EVANS, a 6-2, 180-pound athlete out of Waverly, Neb., was next to be added to the Nebraska pledge list, making a call to the Husker coaches in early August. The speedster (4.48 in the 40-yard dash) was the second in-state prospect to join the Big Red fold, joining Aurora, Neb., offensive lineman **ANDREW RODRIGUEZ**.

"Growing up 15 minutes from the stadium, it's always been my dream to play for Nebraska," Evans said. "Growing up I was always wearing Husker jerseys, and we've always had season tickets, so I've been to most home games. Plus, Nebraska is all about academics and I'm big on academics, so that definitely played a part, too."

Rated the state's No. 5 prospect by Rivals (two-stars), Evans earned second-team All-Nebraska and first-team all-state honors in Class B as a junior. He rushed for 900 yards and 15 touchdowns as a quarterback and added 340 yards passing for another two scores. At safety, he tallied 61 tackles and eight interceptions.

As for his college position, Evans said that will be determined once he arrives in Lincoln.

"Right now, I'll either be a wide receiver or cornerback," he said. "Coach **(TED) GILMORE** wants me for receiver

and coach **(MARVIN) SANDERS** wants me for corner. They said they'll get that figured out."

Evans chose the Huskers over offers from Ohio and Princeton. He also received strong

interest from Colorado State, Kansas State, Iowa State and Kansas.

Arlington, Texas, Bowie High defensive end **DONOVAN VESTAL** made the announcement on his birthday (Aug. 22) that he'd be spending his college years in Lincoln. The 6-5, 240-pounder with 4.7 speed in the 40, chose the Huskers over offers from Oklahoma State, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri and others.

Vestal, rated the nation's No. 33 strongside defensive end prospect by Rivals (four-stars), visited Nebraska for its junior day at the end of July. He said he fell in love with the community.

"It was great," Vestal said. "I really loved it. Everything was beautiful. The city was great. Everybody was just outgoing. You can talk to anybody you run into. They were just great people in Lincoln all around."

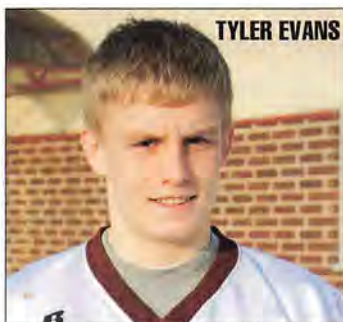
"Coach **TIM BECK** is my recruiting coach and coach 'JP' (**JOHN PAPUCHIS**) is the defensive line coach. I have a really good relationship with both of them. I talk to coach JP all the time."

Vestal, who has a 3.7 grade-point average, is scheduled to take an official visit to Nebraska on Sept. 5 for the Huskers' opener against Florida Atlantic. He said he's looking forward to making a return trip to Lincoln.

"When I went up there, I loved the atmosphere," Vestal said. "I loved everything about Nebraska, and I love how they play football."

One sour note to Nebraska's summer recruiting efforts came in late July when highly touted receiver **KEESTON TERRY** of Blue Springs, Mo., switched his pledge from the Huskers to the Jayhawks of Kansas.

All in all, it was a productive summer for Nebraska as the Huskers continued to assemble their 2010 recruiting class. They continued to make progress, despite a setback along the way.



TYLER EVANS



IN STATE REPORT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

10 NEBRASKANS TO WATCH

1 - **ANDREW RODRIGUEZ, 6-6, 300, AURORA, OL**

Rodriguez is the top Division I in-state prospect for the class of 2010. The Husker commit has the ability to play either guard or tackle at the next level.

2 - **TYLER EVANS, 6-2, 180, WAVERLY, ATH**

Evans is one of the better all-around athletes in the state. He had 900 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns on offense and 61 tackles and eight interceptions on defense. On the basketball court he averaged over 20 points per game, and he also took home the state title in the 100-meter dash.

3 - **ANTARIES DANIELS, 5-11, 190, OMAHA NORTHWEST, RB**

With the hiring of former Husker running back Damon Benning at Omaha Northwest, Daniels should get some good tutelage on what it takes to play at the next level.

4 - **JESSE HINZ, 6-4, 280, BEATRICE, OL**

Hinz committed to North Dakota State, over an Ohio offer, because he felt more comfortable with coach Craig Bohl and his staff in Fargo. Hinz still could pull some more D-I offers with a big senior season.

5 - **BRYCE DIETZ, 6-5, 285, LINCOLN NORTH STAR, OL**

Division I coaches like Dietz's size and motor. He's a real grinder. He has an offer from Ohio.

6 - **RON COLEMAN, 6-0, 250, OMAHA NORTH, DT**

If Coleman were another inch or two taller, he'd probably have multiple Division I offers, but his size has been questioned. Division I schools don't question his play on film, but they do question whether he can add enough weight to his frame to be a defensive tackle at the next level.

7 - **STEPHON WASHINGTON, 5-8, 175, OMAHA BURKE, RB**

Washington is one of the more explosive athletes in the state. This spring he captured the state title in the 300-meter hurdles for a third year in a row. Look for a breakout season in 2009.

8 - **AUSTIN KACZOR, 6-4, 210, EWING, TE**

The question is whether Kaczor will play football or basketball at the next level. As a junior he had 1,092 yards receiving, but he also averaged 28 points per game in basketball.

9 - **BRONSON MARSH, 6-0, 200, MILLARD SOUTH, QB**

When it's all said and done Marsh will have a good chance to be the most prolific passing quarterback in state history. He has thrown for 4,685 yards over the last two seasons.

10 - **CHRISTIAN DUDZIK, 5-11, 180, OMAHA SKUTT, ATH**

Dudzik is a lot like Waverly's Tyler Evans, but 3 inches shorter. He projects at several positions at the next level but plays quarterback for the Sky Hawks.

Recruiting Notebook

NU loses a wideout

by Sean Stevens

Nebraska is looking to sign one to two wide receivers in the 2010 recruiting class. In mid-May **KEESTON TERRY** of Blue Springs, Mo., became the first, and his decision seemed to be solidified by the subsequent pledge of Ballwin, Mo., quarterback **TYLER GABBERT** (6-0/190/4-stars) in early June. Terry and Gabbert are friends, and it was believed that Gabbert would be the glue to keep Terry in Lincoln. It wasn't to be, however.

"I de-committed from Nebraska," Terry said in late July. "After that I thought about it and decided I wanted to commit to Kansas. I felt comfortable there and knew a lot about them since my parents went there."

Terry's parents attended Kansas, and his father Doug played for the Jayhawks. While Terry's change of mind wasn't entirely surprising, it was disappointing. Top remaining NU targets at receiver include **CURTIS CARTER** (5-10/161/4-stars) of Stonewall, La., **BOBBY SWIGERT** (6-1/175/3-stars) of Louisville, Ohio, and **AUSTIN HILL** (6-3/192/3-stars) of Corona, Calif.

Nebraska will need offensive linemen in 2011, and the Huskers started the recruiting process early when Crete, Neb., center **RYNE REEVES** (6-3/286) accepted a scholarship

offer in early June.

"Well, I've been looking to go to Nebraska, so I thought better sooner than later," Reeves said. "I've always wanted to go there, so that's why I picked Nebraska."

Reeves' high school coach Chuck McGinnis had high praise.

"I really believe if he keeps progressing, the sky is the limit for him," McGinnis said. "He's got excellent feet, and that comes from basketball and track. His pass-pro is excellent, and he understands the game."

Reeves is not the only lineman high on the Huskers' list. Clearwater, Fla., tackle **TYLER MOORE** (6-6/270) could be the top offensive lineman in the nation for 2011, and he's a Husker legacy. His father, **BRIAN MOORE**, played tight end for the Huskers in the early 1980's and his cousin is former NU defensive end **JAY MOORE**.

"Nebraska is in the lead, and the other schools know it," Brian Moore told the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times. "Florida is in it. Ohio State is in it. And even though they haven't offered, Penn State is in it. He can go anywhere he wants, but I'd definitely be happy if he goes to Nebraska. It's a really neat environment up there. They live and breathe Nebraska football. He'll be a celebrity as soon as he walks on campus." **N**

SIDELINES

NU BOUND, EVENTUALLY

The Huskers dipped into the desert for some interior defensive line help for the future. **KENNY MACK**, a 6-foot-3, 260-pound defensive tackle out of Las Vegas (Nev.)

Arbor View announced that he will not attend UNLV this fall as originally planned. He will instead enroll in Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College in the fall with the hope of becoming eligible to compete at Nebraska in 2010.

"There's some NCAA rule that will disable me from going to Nebraska this year," Mack said. "I will play this year (at Fort Scott), and if I become qualified I'll play at Nebraska after that. Coach (Ron) Brown said that my scholarship is already there."

"They're just the school that I want to go to after talking to them and researching them. Plus, I want to get out of town now. I don't want to stay here for college."

Mack, rated a three-star prospect by Rivals, accumulated 53 tackles and one sack as a senior in 2008.

2010 Nebraska Commitment List (6)

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Tyler Evans ★★	ATH	6-2	180	Waverly, Neb.
Tyler Gabbert ★★★★★	QB	6-0	190	Ballwin, Mo.
Mike Moudy ★★	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo.
Andrew Rodriguez ★★★★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Anterio Sloan ★★★★★	DB	5-10	165	West Helena, Ark.
Donovan Vestal ★★	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas



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Recruiting Notebook

Rivals.com Rivals100

1

SEANTREL HENDERSON OL 6-8 301 Saint Paul (MN)
Cretin-Derham Hall

The behemoth lineman is also an AAU basketball star. He has offers from Boston College, Florida, Florida State, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oregon, UCLA, USC, Wisconsin.



2

LACHE SEASTRUNG RB 5-11 192 Temple (TX)
Temple

The five-star back has run for 3,073 yards and averaged 10.2 yards per carry over the past two seasons. He holds offers from Auburn, Baylor, Florida, LSU, **NEBRASKA**, Oklahoma, Oregon, USC, Texas, Texas A&M and UCLA.



3

RONALD POWELL DE 6-4 230 Moreno Valley (CA)
Rancho Verde

Powell had 61 tackles, 13 sacks and scored six offensive TDs in 2008. He has offers from 15 schools, including Florida, USC, Notre Dame, **NEBRASKA** and Colorado.



4

KYLE PRATER WR 6-5 205 Hillside (IL)
Proviso West

Prater had 60 catches for 948 yards and nine TDs as a junior. He holds offers from a number of schools, including USC, which he currently favors.



5

JACKSON JEFFCOAT DE 6-5 230 Plano Texas (Plano West)

The son of former Cowboys star Jim Jeffcoat is a huge defensive lineman. He has offers from at least 15 schools, including **NEBRASKA**, Oklahoma, Texas and Texas A&M.



RK.	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	CITY (ST) SCHOOL	COMMITTED TO
6	Darius White	WR	6-2	205	Fort Worth (TX) Dunbar	Florida
7	Marcus Lattimore	RB	6-0	210	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	
8	Matt Elam	DB	6-0	205	West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer	
9	Sharrif Floyd	DT	6-3	310	Philadelphia (PA) George Washington	
10	Jeff Luc	LB	6-1	230	Port St. Lucie (FL) Treasure Coast	North Carolina Alabama Notre Dame
11	James Hurst	OL	6-5	284	Indianapolis (IN) Plainfield	
12	DeMarcus Milliner	DB	6-1	180	Millbrook (AL) Stanhope Elmore	
13	Chris Martin	DE	6-4	240	Princeton (NJ) Hun School	
14	Lamarus Joyner	DB	5-8	166	Fort Lauderdale (FL) St. Thomas Aquinas	USC
15	Michael Dyer	RB	5-8	201	Little Rock (AR) Little Rock Christian	
16	Robert Woods	ATH	6-1	180	Gardena (CA) Junipero Serra	
17	J.R. Ferguson	DE	6-3	272	Chatham (VA) Hargrave Military Academy	
18	Jordan Hicks	LB	6-2	220	West Chester (OH) Lakota West	USC
19	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	DE	6-3	234	Portland (OR) David Douglas	
20	D.J. Morgan	RB	5-11	175	Woodland Hills (CA) Taft	
21	Anthony Barr	ATH	6-4	230	Los Angeles (CA) Loyola	
22	Reggie Wilson	DE	6-4	240	Haltom City (TX) Haltom	Texas Georgia
23	Da'Rick Rogers	WR	6-3	206	Calhoun (GA) Calhoun	
24	Christian Green	ATH	6-2	200	Tampa (FL) Tampa Catholic	Florida State
25	Corey Miller	DE	6-4	227	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	
26	Khairi Fortt	LB	6-2	220	Stamford (CT) Stamford	USC Georgia
27	Xavier Grimble	TE	6-6	245	Las Vegas (NV) Bishop Gorman	
28	T.J. Stripling	DE	6-6	215	Decatur (GA) Southwest Dekalb	USC
29	Gabe King	DE	6-6	253	Greensboro (NC) Northwest Guilford	
30	Dillon Baxter	RB	5-11	187	San Diego (CA) Mission Bay	N.C. State Georgia Oklahoma
31	Keenan Allen	DB	6-3	195	Greensboro (NC) Northern Guilford	
32	Robert Crisp	OL	6-7	299	Raleigh (NC) Athens Drive	N.C. State Georgia Oklahoma
33	Alec Ogletree	DB	6-3	210	Newnan (GA) Newnan	
34	Justin McCay	ATH	6-3	197	Shawnee (KS) Bishop Miege	
35	Latwan Anderson	DB	5-11	185	Cleveland (OH) Glenville Academic Campus	

36	Shakim Phillips	WR	6-2	191	Wayne (NJ) De Paul Catholic	
37	Brandon Willis	DE	6-4	250	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	
38	Kelcy Quarles	DT	6-4	250	Greenwood (SC) Greenwood	South Carolina
39	Trovon Reed	WR	6-0	173	Thibodaux (LA) Thibodaux	
40	Martavis Bryant	WR	6-4	190	Anderson (SC) T. L. Hanna	Clemson
41	Brent Benedict	OL	6-4	278	Jacksonville (FL) Bolles	Georgia
42	Corey Nelson	LB	6-0	210	Dallas (TX) Skyline	Texas A&M
43	Markeith Ambles	WR	6-2	182	McDonough (GA) Henry County	Tennessee
44	Nick Forbes	LB	6-0	223	Frederick (MD) Thomas Johnson	California
45	Joshua Shaw	DB	6-1	195	Palmdale (CA) Palmdale	
46	Brennan Clay	RB	6-0	190	San Diego (CA) Scripps Ranch	Oklahoma
47	Andrew Norwell	OL	6-7	275	Cincinnati (OH) Anderson	Ohio State
48	Cody Riggs	DB	5-8	156	Ft. Lauderdale (FL) St. Thomas Aquinas	
49	Garrison Smith	DT	6-4	250	Atlanta (GA) Douglass	Georgia
50	Tony Jefferson	DB	6-0	196	Chula Vista (CA) Eastlake	UCLA
51	George Uko	DT	6-4	280	Chino (CA) Don Lugo	
52	Roderick Smith	RB	6-3	220	Fort Wayne (IN) Harding	Ohio State
53	William Gholston	DE	6-7	237	Detroit (MI) Southeastern	Michigan State
54	Phillip Sims	QB	6-2	209	Chesapeake (VA) Oscar Smith	Alabama
55	Jimmy Gjere	OL	6-7	275	New Brighton (MN) Irondale	Minnesota
56	Mack Brown	RB	5-11	185	Lithonia (GA) Martin Luther King	Florida
57	John Fulton	DB	6-1	180	Manning (SC) Manning	
58	Jonathan Dowling	DB	6-3	178	Bradenton (FL) Southeast	Florida
59	Trey Hopkins	OL	6-4	260	Galena Park (TX) North Shore	Texas
60	Cullen Christian	DB	6-0	180	Pittsburgh (PA) Penn Hills	
61	Nick Demien	OL	6-6	295	Wentzville (MO) Timberland	Missouri
62	Bronson Kaufusi	DE	6-6	250	Provo (UT) Timpview	BYU
63	Ian Silberman	OL	6-4	257	Fleming Island (FL) Fleming Island	Florida
64	Jacques Smith	DE	6-3	225	Ooltewah (TN) Ooltewah	Tennessee
65	Jarrick Williams	DB	6-2	205	Eight Mile (AL) Blount	Alabama
66	Chaz Green	OL	6-6	290	Tampa (FL) Tampa Catholic	
67	Jordan Allen	DE	6-6	266	West Monroe (LA) West Monroe	LSU
68	Christian Thomas	TE	6-3	235	Palmdale (CA) Highland	
69	Alfy Hill	DE	6-4	222	Shallotte (NC) West Brunswick	
70	Malcolm Jones	ATH	6-1	210	Westlake Village (CA) Oaks Christian	
71	Jaylen Watkins	DB	6-1	172	Cape Coral (FL) Cape Coral	Florida
72	Ivan McCartney	WR	6-3	180	Miramar (FL) Miramar	
73	Damien Robinson	OL	6-8	330	Olive Branch (MS) Olive Branch	
74	Chris Dunkley	WR	5-10	164	Pahokee (FL) Pahokee	
75	Jake Matthews	OL	6-5	275	Missouri City (TX) Elkins	Texas A&M
76	Corey Lemonier	DE	6-4	223	Hialeah (FL) Hialeah	
77	Eric Reid	DB	6-2	210	Geismar (LA) Dutchtown	LSU
78	Andrew Rodriguez	OL	6-6	298	Aurora (NE) Aurora	NEBRASKA
79	Christian Jones	LB	6-4	220	Winter Park (FL) Lake Howell	
80	Taylor Bible	DT	6-3	280	Denton (TX) Guyer	Texas
81	Dion Bailey	DB	6-1	195	Lakewood (CA) Lakewood	USC
82	Roy Finch	RB	5-8	170	Niceville (FL) Niceville	Oklahoma
83	Corey Brown	ATH	6-0	171	Springfield (PA) Cardinal O'Hara	
84	Chris Jones	WR	6-0	172	Daingerfield (TX) Daingerfield	Texas
85	Sean Parker	DB	5-10	185	Harbor City (CA) Narbonne	
86	Marquis Flowers	ATH	6-3	195	Goodyear (AZ) Millennium	
87	Ricky Heimuli	DT	6-4	280	Salt Lake City (UT) Brighton	
88	Curtis White	TE	6-5	240	Eugene (OR) Sheldon	Oregon
89	Leon Orr	DT	6-4	300	New Port Richey (FL) Gulf	Florida
90	Silas Redd	RB	5-10	187	Stamford (CT) King & Low Heywood Thomas	Penn State
91	James Stone	OL	6-5	297	Nashville (TN) Maplewood	
92	Dominic Espinosa	OL	6-4	295	Cedar Park (TX) Cedar Park	Texas
93	DeAndrew White	WR	6-0	170	Galena Park (TX) North Shore	
94	Terrence Mitchell	DB	5-10	165	Tampa (FL) Hillsborough	
95	Cecil Whiteside	LB	6-3	220	Newport Beach (CA) Newport Harbor	
96	Blake Bell	QB	6-6	210	Wichita (KS) Bishop Carroll	Oklahoma
97	Jesse Scroggins	QB	6-3	195	Lakewood (CA) Lakewood	USC
98	LaDarius Owens	LB	6-2	225	Bessemer (AL) Jess Lanier	
99	Jake Heaps	QB	6-2	195	Sammamish (WA) Skyline	BYU
100	Vincent Sanders	WR	6-3	182	Macon (MS) Noxubee County	



RESTORING A CLASSIC

A refurbished 1969 Ford Mustang – blue, with white stripes down the middle – sits in the home garage of Todd Fisher.

"It's pretty sharp looking," Fisher said.

He doesn't take the car out for a ride very often, though. Fisher isn't sure why, because, he says, "it's a fun car to drive."

One day, the car will belong to Fisher's 19-year-old son, Sean.

"But right now," Todd said with a laugh, "it's mine."

The car is rather sentimental because Todd and Sean rebuilt it together. Todd, who builds, owns and manages apartments in southwest Omaha and parts of Sarpy County, had a tenant who wanted to get rid of the Mustang.

"It was in pretty bad shape," Todd said.

Cars weren't really Todd's thing, even though he said he's always been fairly mechanically inclined. But Sean did love cars, so Todd bought the Mustang.

What followed was a four-year project that covered Sean's high school years.

"It turned out really nice," Todd said. "We had a great time

doing it together. I'm not sure I'd stand up to do it again. It was a lot of work."

Sean doesn't have much time to enjoy the car now because he's currently involved in another long-term project – playing football for Nebraska, and helping rebuild the Huskers' defense.

It's a time commitment Todd fully appreciates and understands. He, too, played football at Nebraska, and he's proud to see his son follow the same path.

"His mother (Cathy) and I are both excited to have him close. That's a nice thing," Todd said. "We get a chance to be a part of his whole experience. I think the people down there now are good people to be around and play for. As a parent, that's even a bigger thing."

Todd, an Omaha Burke graduate, was a defensive back who lettered at Nebraska as a redshirted sophomore in 1983. He had ankle surgery during his junior season and decided to end his career then. He graduated, and then worked for Black & Decker Corporation in Houston.

"And I determined I didn't like being around 6 million people,"

said Todd, who's lived the last 22 years in Omaha.

Sean, the second-oldest of four sons, began playing football at age 11.

"I knew he was going to be a good player the first time he played," Todd said. "He just had that knack of playing really hard and aggressive and physical."

Sean, between his seventh-grade and eighth-grade years, grew about 8 inches, his father said. That's when Todd knew that if Sean kept growing and had the right physical statistics, he'd be able to play college football, and maybe even on the Division I level.

By Sean's sophomore season at Millard North High School, Todd was certain of it. Soon after, so were some big-time schools. Oklahoma. Iowa. Wisconsin. Nebraska. Arizona State. Arkansas. They were among many who offered a scholarship.



"There's certainly nothing wrong with doing special teams, but if that's all that you're doing, then I think that might be a little bit of a waste of a year of eligibility, so I didn't disagree with the coaches trying to do that (redshirt) after he banged his shoulder up."

The redshirt year also helped Sean from a mental standpoint. Two major differences in college football today from when Todd

played, he said, are the speed of the game and the complex nature of the schemes.

Throwing the football just 30 percent of the time in the early 1980s, "that was a lot," Todd said. Zone blitzes were foreign. Today, college players are spending 14-16 hours a day in August on football, much of that time studying and watching film.

"I know when I talked to Sean a year ago this time, that was the biggest thing he said," Todd said. "I think Sean's a pretty bright kid, but his head was spinning pretty hard those first few weeks of practice, no doubt about it."

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

"The biggest thing I told him, I just wanted him to find a place where I thought he'd fit the best and was a good fit for him, and not to go to Nebraska because I went there, or because he thought that was a necessary thing for being from the state," Todd said.

"I really do believe it's better that kids find a place that's comfortable for them. I think he went through the logical process of that. I was really proud of him, because being from here, it's really easy to get caught up in the hype and commit right away without thinking it through sometimes. I thought he did a really good job of that."

Sean chose Nebraska over Oklahoma, with Arkansas a distant third. He entered the Huskers' program during the first year of the Bo Pelini regime and played on special teams in the opening game of the 2008 season. But Sean suffered a shoulder injury, sat the rest of the season and earned a medical hardship.

"I'm kind of glad it worked out the way it did," Todd said.



This season, Sean is vying for a starting BUCK linebacker spot, and is working at the MIKE position in Nebraska's dime package.

"I think it's all starting to fit in and make sense," Todd said. "That takes about a year for kids to get that part figured out.

Physically, I don't think there's a problem with a lot of kids coming in as freshmen and being physically ready to play. But when you go to college, the mental side is a whole lot more challenging than the physical side. It's not like high school, where you can be more physically gifted and beat somebody because of that."

Todd talks to Sean when he can, which isn't as often as he'd like, but Dad understands. Todd tries to attend a few weekend practices in August, and the entire family – both sets of grandparents included – heads to Lincoln on game days.

The blue Mustang, though, stays home, waiting for that one day when the keys are turned over to Sean.

"It's kind of his baby," Todd said.

After 50-year legacy, Schnellenberger not done



BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL fans inclined toward provincialism will remember Howard Schnellenberger for his role in one of the most memorable bowl games in college football history -- Miami's 31-30 triumph against the Cornhuskers in the 1984 Orange Bowl, netting a national championship.

Schnellenberger was Miami's head coach at the time. Twelve seasons later, in his first and only season at Oklahoma, Nebraska pounded the Sooners 37-0 in Lincoln; Schnellenberger still remembers the kind Husker fans applauding his bedraggled team as it left the field.

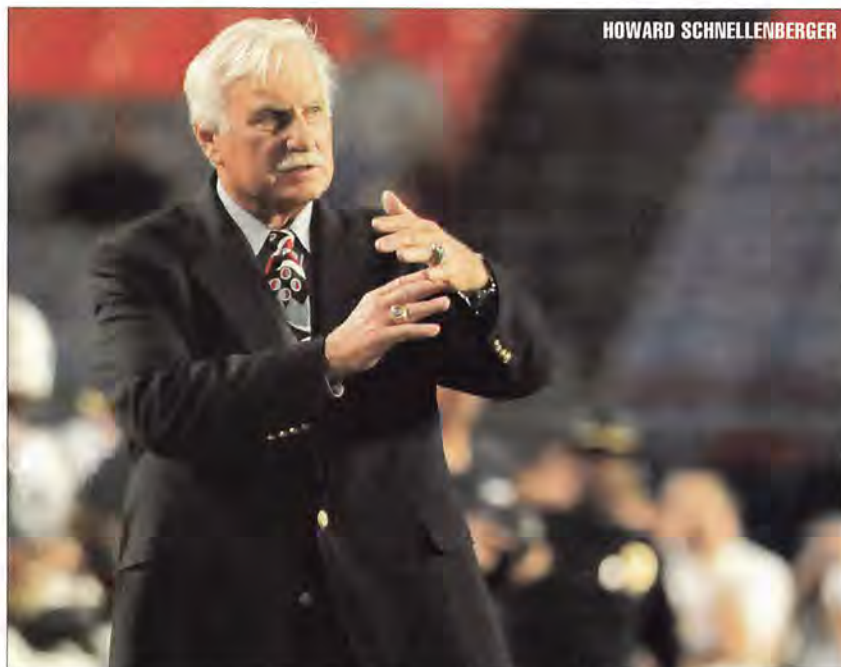
But those are only two snapshots of Schnellenberger's eventful 50-year coaching career. Yes, 50 years in the business. Schnellenberger, 75, embraces the Bobby Bowden philosophy: In life, after one retires, there is only one big event left.

Eventful career? Well, consider some of Schnellenberger's highlights:

- ▶ He's been on the coaching staffs of four national championship teams (Alabama 1961, 1964, 1965; Miami 1983) and seven NFL playoff teams.
- ▶ He was the offensive coordinator for the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins (17-0).
- ▶ He was the 1983 national college coach of the year.

In recent weeks, Schnellenberger has been preparing his Florida Atlantic Owls for their Sept. 5 game against Nebraska in Lincoln. He has built the Florida Atlantic program from the ground up, beginning the job in 1998 in what he thought would be a temporary role.

"My job was to come in, lay out the



HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER

plan, raise the money, hire the coaches, get everything ready," Schnellenberger recently told The Miami Herald.

But he was talked into hiring himself as coach, and it's turned out well.

Schnellenberger has seen Florida Atlantic become the quickest start-up program to reach the Division I-AA playoffs and the first to play in a bowl game.

No wonder he seems invigorated.

GAME NOTES

At least a handful of NFL scouts will be on hand for the season-opener against FAU, and Ndamukong Suh isn't the only player the scouts will be watching closely.

Florida Atlantic features a strong passing game with senior quarterback Rusty Smith, the pre-season Sun Belt Conference co-offensive player of the year (along with Arkansas State quarterback Corey Leonard). The 6-foot-5, 230-pound

Smith threw for 3,224 yards and 24 touchdowns in 2008, while guiding the Owls to their second consecutive bowl appearance, a 24-21 triumph over Central Michigan in the Motor City Bowl.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Howard Schnellenberger (48-48 in 9th year at FAU; 148-125-3 overall)

Enrollment: 21,582

Colors: Blue, red and silver

2008 record: 7-6 (4-3 Sun Belt)

2009 SCHEDULE

- 9/5 at Nebraska
- 9/19 at South Carolina
- 9/26 La-Monroe
- 10/3 Wyoming
- 10/17 at North Texas
- 10/24 at La-Lafayette
- 10/31 Middle Tennessee
- 11/7 at UAB
- 11/14 Arkansas State
- 11/21 at Troy
- 11/28 Western Kentucky
- 12/5 at Fla. International

FLORIDA ATLANTIC ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
11	Rusty Smith	QB	R-Sr	6-5	230
12	Jeff Van Camp	QB	R-Jr	6-5	222
14	Graham Wilbert	QB	R-Fr	6-6	225
15	David Kooi	QB	R-Fr	6-7	210

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
60	Chris Athans	LS	Jr	6-0	225
69	Morgan Barnett	LS	Jr	6-3	230
51	Eric Hansen	OL	R-Fr	6-5	240
52	Chris Newbold	OL	Jr	6-4	265
54	Jared Pizzuti	OL	R-Fr	6-4	225
59	Ed Wertepny	OL	R-Jr	6-5	260
60	Carlton Falconer	OL	Fr	6-5	255
62	Chris White	OL	R-Sr	6-4	285
65	Mike Nweze	OL	Fr	6-4	283
68	Jimmie Colley	OL	Fr	6-3	260
70	Lavoris Williams	OL	R-Sr	6-3	285
72	David Matlock	OL	R-Sr	6-2	290
73	Kevin Miller	OL	R-Sr	6-3	330
74	Carl Spitaler	OL	Sr	6-8	340
76	Ryan Wischneski	OL	R-Jr	6-2	317
78	Troy Niblack	OL	R-Fr	6-6	280
79	Jordan Sessa	OL	R-Fr	6-5	280
67	Ryan Houston	OL	R-Jr	6-3	285
53	Samuel McCroy	OT	Jr	6-4	275
55	Joseph Bailey	OT	R-Fr	6-5	268
63	DeAndre Williams	OT	Fr	6-5	265
64	Max Karrick	OT	R-Sr	6-6	280

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
40	Chris Jackson	FB	Fr	6-0	230
2	Avionne Rolle	RB	R-Sr	5-9	180
25A	Jeff Blanchard	RB	R-Jr	5-9	195
28	Willie Floyd	RB	R-Jr	5-9	185
30	Mike Barasch	RB	R-Fr	5-9	200
31	Tyrie Allen	RB	Fr	5-9	185
32	Alfred Morris	RB	R-Sr	5-11	222
33	Kyle Watkins	RB	R-Sr	6-2	230
35	Damian Fortner	RB	Fr	5-10	171
36	David Muniz	RB	Jr	5-10	221
43	Travis Jones	RB	Fr	5-10	175
46	Willie Rose	RB	R-Sr	6-1	236
8	Xavier Stinson	RB	R-Fr	5-9	228

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
19	Alex Fick	TE	R-Sr	6-3	210
81	Rob Housler	TE	Sr	6-5	230
82	Paul Muse	TE	R-Sr	6-2	250
84	James Oboh	TE	Fr	6-4	210
85	Darian Williams	TE	R-Sr	6-3	210
86	Nexon Dorvilus	TE	Fr	6-4	225
87	Jamari Grant	TE	R-Sr	6-5	215
88	Jason Harmon	TE	R-Sr	6-3	215
18A	Alex Pecorella	WR	R-Sr	5-11	189
1	Avery Holley	WR	R-Jr	6-0	165
13	Grant Glover	WR	R-Jr	5-9	170
16	Cortez Gent	WR	R-Sr	6-2	185
24	DeAndre Richardson	WR	Fr	6-2	180
3	Lester Jean	WR	Jr	6-3	195
34A	Alain Beauzil	WR	R-Sr	6-0	185
4	Conshario Johnson	WR	R-Sr	6-1	190
7	Chris Bonner	WR	R-Sr	6-3	195
80	Amos Wood, Jr	WR	R-Fr	6-0	170
83	Jamal Davis	WR	Fr	6-2	185

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
94	Andrew Stryfieler	DE	Fr	6-5	235
97	Jared Williams	DE	Fr	6-3	240
98	Jamere Johnson	DE	R-Sr	6-4	250
	Cory Henry	DE	Fr	6-3	230
58	Dino Cox	DL	Jr	6-3	240
71	Christopher Chappell	DL	Fr	6-8	298
75	Ryan Klopfer	DL	Fr	6-3	240
77	David Hunt	DL	Fr	6-1	225
89	Nick Osborne	DL	R-Fr	6-3	210
91	Andy Czuprynski	OL	R-Fr	6-5	255
92	Kevin Cyrille	DL	R-Sr	6-4	275
96	Jimmy Jean	DL	R-Fr	6-2	290
99	Daniel Joseph	DL	Jr	6-0	244
	Karl James	DL	Fr	6-1	258
90	Mauricio Riquer	DT	R-Jr	6-4	285
93	Jarvis Givens	DT	R-Sr	6-3	305
95	Josh Savidge	DT	R-Sr	6-2	280

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
26	Curtis Cross	CB	R-Sr	5-10	170
9	Tarvoris Hill	CB	R-Sr	6-0	170
18	Antonio Rodriguez	DB	R-Fr	5-11	209
19	Treon Howard	DB	Fr	5-10	150
21	Erick McIntosh	DB	R-Sr	6-0	180
23	Winfred Strickland	DB	Fr	6-0	170
24A	Brentley Harstad	DB	Fr	6-1	189
25	Terrell Bradley	DB	Fr	5-10	185
27	Marcus Bartels	DB	R-Sr	5-9	161
29	Demetrius Williamson	DB	R-Fr	6-0	180
34	Keith Reaser	DB	Fr	5-10	165

38	Ed Alexander	DB	R-Jr	6-1	172
5	Tavious Polo	DB	R-Jr	5-11	175
6	Darian Thomas	DB	R-Sr	5-10	170
10	Rod Huggins	S	R-Jr	6-1	185
37	Austin Jensen	S	Jr	6-1	200
36	David Terrell	SS	So	5-10	195
49	Brian Sirmans	SS	Fr	6-1	160

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
42	Alex Pattee	LB	R-Fr	6-2	240
61	Cory Davis	LB	So	5-11	215
28	David Haugabrook	LB	Fr	6-0	190
39	Malik Eugene	LB	R-Jr	6-3	240
41	Tony Walding	LB	R-Fr	6-1	210
44	Mark Soto	LB	R-Sr	5-8	230
45	Michael Lockley	LB	R-Jr	6-2	245
47	Edward Bradwell	LB	R-Sr	6-1	270
48	Yourhighness Morgan	LB	R-Fr	6-3	245
50	Chris Etemo	LB	R-Fr	6-1	192
56	Toney Moore	LB	Fr	6-2	210
57	David Hinds	LB	Fr	6-2	215
59A	Brandon Hando	LB	Fr	6-3	225
66	Pierre Boisrond	LB	Sr	6-1	240
66	Randell McLaughlin	LB	Fr	6-3	210

#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
20	Ross Gornall	K	R-Jr	5-11	190
22	Keegan Peterson	K	R-Sr	6-0	185
	Michael Cal	K	R-Sr	5-6	163
17	Mickey Groody	P	R-Sr	5-11	170
	Matthew McLaughlin	P/K	Fr	5-10	190

NEBRASKA ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
17	Green, Cody	QB	6-4	215	Fr.
12	Kellogg Jr., Ron	QB	6-1	210	Fr.
5	Lee, Zac	QB	6-2	210	Jr.
3	Martinez, Taylor	QB	6-1	185	Fr.
7	Spano, Kody	QB	6-2	215	RFr.
15	Washington, Latravis	QB	6-3	225	Jr.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
70	Ash, Nick	OL	6-5	260	Fr.
66	Barrett, Cruz	OL	6-4	310	Jr.
72	Burkes, Jaivorio	OL	6-5	295	Jr.
58	Caputo, Mike	OL	6-1	275	So.
51	Chapek, Brandon	OL	6-5	320	Fr.
77	Choi, Seung Hoon	OL	6-2	295	RFr.
62	Christensen, Andy	OL	6-3	310	Sr.
71	Coffey, Jesse	OL	6-7	290	Fr.
74	Henry, Ricky	OL	6-4	300	Jr.
67	Hickman, Jacob	OL	6-4	295	Sr.
73	Jones, D.J.	OL	6-5	315	Jr.
52	Jones, Dwight	OL	6-4	240	Fr.
78	Jones, Marcel	OL	6-7	310	So.
75	Lingenfelter, Luke	OL	6-4	255	So.
63	Meyer, Derek	OL	6-5	315	Sr.
69	Nicksen, Brodrick	OL	6-5	285	Fr.
76	Qvale, Brent	OL	6-7	335	Fr.
57	Sirtes, Jeremiah	OL	6-6	280	Fr.
65	Smith, Mike	OL	6-6	290	Jr.
79	Thompson, Brandon	OL	6-6	300	RFr.
59	Thorson, Brian	OL	6-3	290	RFr.
50	Toailoa, Quentin	OL	6-4	300	RFr.
68	Williams, Keith	OL	6-5	320	Jr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
30	Hays, Mike	FB	6-1	240	So.
48	Legate, Tyler	FB	5-10	225	RFr.
37	Thomsen, Kevin	FB	6-2	235	So.
10	Helu Jr., Roy	IB	6-0	215	Jr.
28	Jones, Austin	IB	5-10	210	So.
29	Okafor, Collins	IB	6-1	225	RFr.
14	Ward, Lester	IB	6-3	215	RFr.
22	Burkhead, Rex	IB	5-11	200	Fr.
22	Makovicka, Jordan	RB	5-10	195	RFr.
27	Robinson, Dontray	RB	6-1	215	Fr.
34	Wallace, Jeremy	RB	6-1	235	RFr.
31	Zimmerer, C.J.	RB	6-0	215	Fr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
2	Bell, Antonio	WR	6-2	180	Fr.
1	Brooks, Chris	WR	6-2	215	Sr.
82	Cammack, Wes	WR	5-11	200	Sr.
42	Clark, Tyson	WR	6-4	185	Fr.
6	Cooper, Khiry	WR	6-2	195	RFr.
87	Dixon, Taylor	WR	5-11	190	RFr.
35	Failla, Nick	WR	5-10	180	Fr.
11	Gilleylen, Curenski	WR	6-0	220	So.
8	Henry, Will	WR	6-5	215	Jr.
18	Holt, Menelik	WR	6-4	220	Sr.
85	Hyland, KC	WR	6-6	205	RFr.
4	Kildow, Ty	WR	5-7	165	Fr.
84	Kinnie, Brandon	WR	6-3	215	So.
9	Lester, Ben	WR	5-10	170	So.
26	Marlowe, Tim	WR	5-10	175	RFr.
32	Mendoza, Marcus	WR	5-10	185	So.
21	Osborne, Steven	WR	6-4	195	RFr.

24	Paul, Niles	WR	6-1	215	Jr.
16	Watson, Adam	WR	6-0	195	Jr.
91	Barry, Robert	TE	6-8	220	Fr.
83	Bechtold, Damon	TE	6-4	235	RFr.
81	Cotton, Ben	TE	6-6	240	RFr.
80	Hill, Ryan	TE	6-3	250	So.
89	Kerr, J.T.	TE	6-4	230	Fr.
41	Long, Jake	TE	6-4	230	Fr.
88	Martin, Jay	TE	6-2	225	So.
86	McClure, Mychael	TE	6-5	235	RFr.
44	McNeill, Mike	TE	6-4	240	Jr.
25	Reed, Kyle	TE	6-3	225	RFr.
47	Wells, Brett	TE	6-4	200	Fr.
49	Young, Dreu	TE	6-4	245	Jr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
95	Allen, Pierre	DE	6-5	265	Jr.
70	Anderson, Kenny	DE	6-2	240	RFr.
9	Ankrah, Jason	DE	6-4	250	Fr.
92	Fahie, Tyrone	DE	6-3	255	Jr.
91	Glassman, Dan	DE	6-4	250	Jr.
80	Harvey, David	DE	6-4	275	Sr.
81	Long, Spencer	DE	6-4	250	Fr.
65	McDermott, Colin	DE	6-2	240	RFr.
66	McDermott, Conor	DE	6-2	240	RFr.
34	Meredith, Cameron	DE	6-4	260	RFr.
99	Turner, Barry	DE	6-3	265	Sr.
98	Williams, Josh	DE	6-4	245	RFr.
47	Yancy, William	DE	6-4	245	So.
58	Jackson, Justin	DL	6-3	270	RFr.
78	Kanne, Colin	DL	6-4	260	Fr.
62	Pensick, Cole	DL	6-2	260	Fr.
53	Randle, Thaddeus	DL	6-1	255	Fr.
94	Crick, Jared	DT	6-6	285	So.
85	Klingelhoefer, Faron	DT	6-2	255	RFr.
63	Martin, Ben	DT	6-4	260	Jr.
68	Molek, Josh	DT	6-3	245	RFr.
90	Moore, Terrence	DT	6-3	285	So.
55	Steinkuhler, Baker	DT	6-6	295	RFr.
93	Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	300	Sr.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
21	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-1	200	Jr.
39	Blatchford, Justin	CB	6-1	195	RFr.
14	Blue, Anthony	CB	5-10	185	So.
31	Dean, Jase	CB	6-0	185	RFr.
15	Dennard, Alfonso	CB	5-10	190	So.
7	Gomes, Dejon	CB	6-0	190	Jr.
23	Thorell, Lance	CB	6-1	195	So.
5	West, Anthony	CB	6-0	205	Jr.
11	Green, Andrew	DB	6-0	180	Fr.
2	Middleton, Lazarri	DB	6-1	190	Fr.
16	Richards, Wil	DB	5-11	185	Fr.
10	Washington, Dijon	DB	6-0	175	Fr.
92	Mangieri, P.J.	LS	6-4	245	Fr.
67	Mcinnis, Sam	LS/LB	6-2	220	RFr.
4	Asante, Larry	S	6-1	215	Sr.
8	Cassidy, Austin	S	6-1	210	So.
32	Ebke, Jim	S	6-0	215	So.
28	Hagg, Eric	S	6-2	205	Jr.
29	Jameson, Seth	S	6-1	180	Fr.
43	Moravec, Brent	S	6-0	185	RFr.
33	O'Hanlon, Matt	S	5-11	200	Sr.
12	Osborne, Courtney	S	6-3	185	RFr.
13	Smith, P.J.	S	6-2	205	RFr.
3	Therense, Rickey	S	6-0	205	So.

Volleyball

TARA MUELLER

BY BOB HAMAR

2009 Huskers built on speed, athleticism

Nebraska volleyball has built a tradition on big, strong players who dominate at the net. The Huskers still have players like that in 6-foot-5 Lindsey Licht and 6-4 Brooke Delano, both of whom are listed as right side players. But the bulk of the 2009 team is built on speed and athletic ability.

It's a bit of a change that coach John Cook began implementing through his recruiting philosophy in an effort to put a team on the court that can play the way men play.

"This is going to be a team that is very athletic and very fast," Cook said. "You hear the football coaches talk about team speed on defense. We have team speed on the court. This is going to be one of the fastest, most athletic teams you've seen at Nebraska.

"We've always been coined as the big, slow girls, who dominate at the net. This is going to be a different feel. It's going to be a team that plays fast."

That up-tempo style of play will be on display when the Huskers open the season Aug. 28 against Michigan in the AVCA Showcase at the Qwest Center in Omaha. It's a style that impressed Cook in the early fall practices.



The Huskers also showed their athletic ability in pre-season performance-index testing. The players went through four different tests: the 10-yard dash, an agility test that requires side-to-side movement, the standing vertical jump and the approach and jump — a test that is unique to volleyball.

Freshmen libero Megan Pendergast, freshman outside hitter Hannah Werth and junior Tara Mueller were all over 30 inches in the vertical jump. Werth also broke the team record for the 10-yard dash at 1.57 seconds.

"I think that puts her over there in nice company with the football team," Cook said.

Add it all up, and the Huskers had eight players that totaled 2,000 points in the four tests. Last year there were none.

"That gives you an idea of how athletic this team is," Cook said. "So when I say it's the most athletic team we've had at Nebraska in the last nine years, that performance index score backs it up.

"They've done a great job with how hard they worked this summer. That is just an unbelievable number."

The five freshmen have certainly made their presence felt in the early practices. Pendergast, Werth, outside hitter Gina Mancuso, middle blocker Hayley Thramer and defensive specialist Paige Hubl form what was rated the second-best recruiting class in the country behind Minnesota.

"We have one senior on the entire roster, so age-wise we're really young," Cook said. "But we've been really impressed with how the freshmen have come in and performed this summer and in the first few practices.

"The freshman class is legit. They're making an impact in our gym. Like we say, if you're going to get after it as an athlete at the college level, you might as well do it when you're a pup. These guys are doing a great job."

The Huskers certainly got after it last year. Cook saw his players max out to the best of their ability when the team advanced to the national semi-finals before falling to eventual champion Penn State in five sets. He's hoping they can do the same this season.

"I hope there's carryover from last year's team compared to what happened two years ago, that they understand the importance of playing for each other and this is about Nebraska volleyball, about a team," Cook said. "Nobody is bigger than that. Nobody is more important than that. It's always about the team."

HUSKERS NEVER LATE

The leadership of Kori Cooper, Sydney Anderson, Kayla Banwarth and Tara Mueller was crucial during summer workouts.

The Huskers had two-hour workouts four days a week. Cook said because of the leadership of those four players, there was not a single player late for workouts all summer long.

"It's tough waking up early in the morning, but when you know all your teammates are doing the same thing it's not so hard," Mueller said. "This is the first year that no one has been late. I think it just really shows how dedicated we are and how hard we're going to work."

JUST LIKE ELMER

When Cook was asked if any of the freshmen reminded him of former players, he came up with one name.

He said middle blocker Hayley Thramer reminds him of Melissa Elmer who was a two-time All-American (2005, 2006) and holds the school record for career block assists and total blocks.

"Actually she's ahead of where Elmer started, but I think she's that kind of player," Cook said. "Other people notice

from the back she looks like Elmer, and Elmer is the all-time greatest blocker in the history of college volleyball."

BANWARTH PLAYING WELL

Cook also compared junior libero Kayla Banwarth to Dani Busboom, who was the libero for the 2006 national championship team.

The difference is Busboom, who was a setter her first three years at Nebraska, only played libero her senior season.

"In fact I think Kayla may have gone to another level above Dani Busboom," Cook said. "I thought Dani was special. Kayla now is going to that point and may pass it. Dani really did it for only a year. Kayla now I think is really special." **N**

2009 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22	Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28-29	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 28	*vs. Michigan, 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 29	*vs. Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	Creighton, 7 p.m.
Sept. 4-5	at LSU Tournament
Sept. 4	vs. UL-Lafayette, 11 a.m.
	at LSU, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	vs. Tulane, 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 10-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 10	Virginia, 7 p.m.
Sept. 11	BYU, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13	^UCLA, 2 p.m.
Sept. 16	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Colorado, TBA
Sept. 23	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	Texas, 1 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Kansas, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Oklahoma, TBA
Oct. 28	at Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Iowa State, TBA
Nov. 13	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 11-12	*NCAA Regionals, TBA
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha
	^ at Bob Devaney Sports Center

Men's Basketball

DRAKE BERANEK

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Nebraska lands in-state college transfers

Doc Sadler knows very little about Drake Beranek and Mitch Albers. The Nebraska men's basketball coach hasn't seen them play. He hasn't watched film. He isn't even too versed in their statistics, other than what he's seen in the media.

But both players share two important characteristics that Sadler appreciates. They're both from Nebraska, and they both want to play for Nebraska.

Their desire to wear red is so great that Beranek and Albers both turned in scholarships at their respective NCAA Division II schools to walk on at Nebraska, hoping to fulfill a dream.

"It's a risk that I'm willing to take," said Albers, who played two seasons at Nebraska-Omaha. "I think everything kind of worked out, and I'm just excited to get a chance to play for the Huskers."

Albers averaged 15.7 points as a sophomore last season for the Mavericks. He's a graduate of Papillion-LaVista High School.

Beranek's decision seemed even bolder, considering the 6-foot-4 guard was ready to begin his senior season at Nebraska-Kearney. He was on pace to become only the fifth Loper in school history to reach 2,000 career points. Beranek averaged 21.9 points last season, ranking 11th



nationally in Division II.

"In some people's eyes, I'm giving up a lot to go to UNL. Some of that's true," said Beranek, a native of Ravenna. "But for me, it's not ever been about individual accolades. It's more about my basketball experience as a whole. It's about maybe getting the most out of myself, and right now I feel like I've got another level yet to tap. The only way I could do that is to go to a program like Nebraska."

Those words are flattering to Sadler, whose team is void of any scholarship players from Nebraska. In fact, the Huskers haven't had any home-grown scholarship players since Wes Wilkinson (Grand Island) and Jason Dourisseau (Omaha) were seniors during the 2005-06 season.

"It's always good to have some players from Nebraska that understand how important it is to be a part of this program," said Sadler, who's entering his fourth season at Nebraska.

"All of us coaches like to think that we're doing a good job, but when you get the respect of high school coaches and you get the respect of players, that means even more. For players to watch us play and think that they want to be a part of your program, it makes you feel good. It makes you feel good that the player thinks you are doing the right thing, too."

Beranek, whose father, Paul, is the head coach at Ravenna High School, also aspires to one day be a coach. That's one of the reasons he wanted to come to Nebraska – to learn from Sadler.

"I saw the things that Doc does there," Beranek said, recalling how he'd watch "The Doc Sadler Show" at 3 a.m. after returning from a road trip. "I see how his kids compete, and I'd like to get the same things out of my kids if I was going to be a coach."

Beranek and Albers join Beatrice native Mike Fox as current walk-ons from Nebraska. Fox, who transferred from Northwest Missouri State, has another

semester to sit out before he's eligible to play. Beranek and Albers must sit the upcoming season before they're eligible for 2010-11.

Academically, Sadler said Beranek and Albers made sacrifices to attend Nebraska. Beranek had to switch majors, and is now a communications studies major.

"I told both of them I didn't think it was a good idea, academically, to be making this decision, and that they should return to the schools they're at," Sadler said. "They both had great careers there, but in both cases they always talked about wanting to play at Nebraska."

"It goes back to what I was saying earlier: It's always good to have those kinds of guys on your team."

2009 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	Arkansas-Fort Smith (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Hastings (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 14	South Carolina Upstate, TBD
Nov. 18	at Saint Louis, TBD
Nov. 21	TCU, TBD
Nov. 24	UMKC, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at USC, TBD
Dec. 2	Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Creighton, TBD
Dec. 10	Chicago State, 7 p.m.
Dec. 12	Oregon State, TBD
Dec. 19	Jackson State, 7 p.m. <i>at Las Vegas Classic</i>
Dec. 22	vs. Tulsa, 7 p.m.
Dec. 23	vs. BYU or Nevada, 7 or 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	Southern Utah, 7 p.m.
Jan. 2	Maryland Eastern Shore, TBD
Jan. 5	Southeastern Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Texas A&M, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 13	Kansas, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Jan. 16	Iowa State, TBD
Jan. 23	at Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 27	at Colorado, TBD
Jan. 30	Oklahoma, 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 2	Kansas State, 7 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 6	at Kansas, 5 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 10	Baylor, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 13	at Texas, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 17	at Kansas State, TBD
Feb. 20	Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 24	at Iowa State, TBD
Feb. 27	Texas Tech, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Mar. 2	Colorado, TBD
Mar. 6	at Okla. St., 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network <i>at Big 12 Championship</i>
Mar. 10-13	at Kansas City, Mo. (Sprint Center)

NEWEST RECRUIT

Adrien Coleman became a late addition to Nebraska's 2009-10 recruiting class when he accepted a scholarship offer in July.

A 6-4, 190-pound shooting guard from Stone Mountain, Ga., Coleman originally committed to Alabama-Birmingham. But Coleman was denied admission into UAB despite the fact he's met NCAA eligibility standards.

Rivals.com rated Coleman a three-star player. He averaged 24 points as a senior in high school and 22 points as a junior.

DAGUNDURO SIGNS

Ade Dagunduro, who led Nebraska in scoring last season and graduated in May, has signed a ninth-month contract with Mitteldeustcher Basketball Club of Germany.

A 6-5 guard, Dagunduro said he hopes playing overseas will help him eventually meet his lifelong dream of playing in the NBA.

Another Husker from last year's team, walk-on guard Nick Krenk, accepted a head coaching job at Johnson-Brock High School, located about 25 miles south of Krenk's hometown of Nebraska City.

EXHIBITIONS UPCOMING

Doc Sadler will coach against one of his former schools in an exhibition game when Arkansas-Fort Smith visits the Devaney Center on Nov. 6. Sadler coached at UA-Fort Smith – then a junior college – from 1998-2003. The Lions are a provisional NCAA Division II team, which will be playing its first-ever Division I opponent.

Nebraska will also face Hastings College – alma mater of athletic director Tom Osborne – in another exhibition, as Sadler decided to return to a two-exhibition schedule. Last year, Sadler took advantage of a new NCAA rule that allowed teams to replace one or both exhibitions with a closed scrimmage against a Division I team. The Huskers faced Marquette in a scrimmage last year. **N**

SHAY POWELL



SOCCER Finding the finishing touch

BY TOMMY DAHLK

If the Nebraska women's soccer team had to choose a theme song for the 2009 season, it probably would be the Beatles' 1969 hit "Get Back."

Yes, the Huskers think it's time to "get back to where you once belonged."

"I am really excited about this year and have really high expectations for this team," senior defender Carly Peetz said.

Nebraska, which made it past the first round of the NCAA Tournament from 1996 to 2005, has been in a three-year big-dance drought.

After injuries caused the Huskers to miss the NCAA Tournament in 2006,

head coach John Walker had to rebuild. And there were some growing pains.

In 2007, the young Huskers didn't make the Big 12 tournament, after winning it five times from 1996 to 2002, and finished with the worst record in school history.

Last year, Nebraska took a big step back in the right direction, finishing above .500, beating ranked teams in conference play and barely missing the NCAA Tournament.

Although they were pleased with the progress, the Huskers knew they left a lot out there. "Soccer is just a game of inches, and last season just shows that," Peetz said. "There were so many games we could have won."

The Huskers routinely dominated their opponents on both ends of the field last season. Still, sometimes something really important eluded them – scoring.

“That is what we’ve been missing – that finishing touch on it, which is a goal,” senior forward Shay Powell said. “We’d out-shoot, out-run, and out-cross everyone but sometimes couldn’t finish.”

If the Huskers continue to control the attack and find the back of the net more often, a place near the top of the Big 12 standings could be likely again.

In fact, Walker said this team could be something special.

He can’t find any holes in the roster. “I think we have the makings of a solid squad,” he said. “There’s athleticism, skill, experience and depth. As long as they stay healthy, this team has a really good chance to be a really good team.”

Offensively, Powell, who led the Huskers with seven goals and 19 points last season, will lead a deep group of forwards. She and sophomore Molly Thomas, who was second on the team with five goals, will be joined by seniors Lauren Isenhower and Brittney Lanier, junior Michaela Fulmer, and sophomore Alexa Cardona, who missed all of last season with a foot injury.

Highly touted freshmen Jordan Jackson and Morgan Marlborough will be in the mix at forward as well, while twins Colleen and Katie Goetzmann return as midfielders.

Defensively, the Huskers are set with Peetz, a second team All-Big 12 selection last season, and senior Anna Caniglia, who adds plenty of offensive punch on the Huskers’ backline. Junior Brittany Goosen also has started the past two seasons.

They’ll provide support for whoever

plays goalkeeper. Junior Jessica Mills, who started as a freshman in 2007, will battle junior Tara Macdonald, an Oklahoma transfer, and freshman Emma Stevens.

Walker said all three looked impressive in fall camp, and the competition for the starting job was intense. “I feel comfortable playing any of them in a game,” he said. “They know they have to be sharp if they want to play.

For the first time in years, the Huskers are fully healthy and every position appears to have ample depth. This could be the year the Huskers rejoin the upper-echelon of college soccer programs. If they do, “get back,” it will be even sweeter for this group of seniors since they remember the lows of 2007.

“I think you have to be at a place where you are at your lowest to realize your potential and realize how much heart you have as a team,” Powell said. **N**

2009 WOMEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

Aug. 18	at Colorado College, 1 p.m.
Aug. 22	at Northern Colorado, 8 p.m.
Aug. 26	Meet-N-Beat the Huskers, 6:30 p.m. at Villanova Classic
Aug. 28	vs. Lehigh, Noon
Aug. 30	vs. Villanova, Noon
Sept. 04	Lamar, 5 p.m. adidas Husker Classic
Sept. 11	North Dakota, 5 p.m.
Sept. 13	Akron, 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	South Dakota, 5 p.m.
Sept. 20	Arizona State, Noon
Sept. 25	at Colorado, 5 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Texas Tech, Noon
Oct. 02	Green Bay, 4 p.m.
Oct. 04	Oklahoma State, 1 p.m.
Oct. 09	Baylor, 4 p.m.
Oct. 11	Oklahoma, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Texas, 7 p.m.
Oct. 18	Texas A&M, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Kansas, 3 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30	Iowa State, 4 p.m.
Nov. 4-8	Big 12 Championship at San Antonio, Texas
Nov. 13-15	NCAA First/Second Rounds
Nov. 20-22	NCAA Third Round
Nov. 27-29	NCAA Quarterfinals
Dec. 4-6	NCAA College Cup, at College Station, Texas

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
0	Stevens, Emma	GK	5-7	Fr.	Corona, Calif. (Santiago)
1	Macdonald, Tara	GK	5-10	Jr.	Austin, Texas (James Bowie)
2	Powell, Shay	F	5-5	Sr.	Dallas, Texas (Lutheran)
4	Goetzmann, Colleen	MF	5-7	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
5	Goetzmann, Katie	MF	5-7	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
6	Slapper, Blair	D	5-8	So.	Prairie Village, Kan. (Shawnee Mission East)
7	Bartels, Stacy	F	5-6	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Skutt)
8	Thomas, Molly	F	5-5	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
9	Houck, Taylor	D	5-4	Fr.	Chalfont, Pa. (Germantown Academy)
10	Peetz, Carly	D	5-8	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
11	Mills, Jessica	GK	5-7	Jr.	Houston, Texas (Clear Lake)
12	Lanier, Brittney	MF	5-7	Sr.	Carrollton, Texas (Trinity Christian Academy)
13	Sanchez, Jamie	D	5-7	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lutheran)
14	Badje, Bri	MF	5-4	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest)
15	Marlborough, Morgan	F	6-0	Fr.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit North)
16	Jackson, Jordan	F	5-7	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley West)
18	Exstrom, Bri	MF	5-6	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest)
20	Caniglia, Anna	D	5-8	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
21	Fulmer, Michaela	F	5-4	Jr.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (O'Hara)
23	Goosen, Brittany	D	5-7	Jr.	Olathe, Kan. (Olathe South)
24	Berkshire, Julie	MF	5-10	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
27	White, Jaclyn	F	6-0	Jr.	Long Beach, Calif. (Bishop Montgomery)
30	Cardona, Alexa	F	5-5	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
77	Isenhower, Lauren	F	5-9	Sr.	Lenexa, Kan. (Shawnee Mission Northwest)
91	White, Anna	MF	5-6	Jr.	Warrensburg, Mo. (Warrensburg)



LOCKER ROOM JUBILATION - Nebraska didn't have a lot to celebrate in 1958. Coach Bill Jennings' Cornhuskers finished 3-7. But their third victory, in the final home game, cost No. 14-ranked Pittsburgh a potential bowl bid. Nebraska defeated the Panthers 14-6. Back then, the locker room was open to reporters (all of them males) to record such celebrations. The Cornhusker in jersey No. 30 is senior captain Dick McCashland, a linebacker and fullback from Geneva, Neb. Some things haven't changed in 50 years. "As a kid . . . I worked at a filling station for my dad, and I would listen to the games, Lyell Bremser," McCashland once told Huskers Illustrated. "I dreamed of playing football at Nebraska. 'If I could only do that.' They used to have a replay of the game at midnight, as I recall, and (as a player) I would listen to the replay. Film took a couple of days, and you didn't know how you played. But I'd listen to the replay and get an idea of how I played, whether I was going to get my butt chewed."

GAMES REMEMBERED

Sept. 29, 1979 at Memorial Stadium
(consecutive sellout No. 100)



Penn State coach Joe Paterno's concern was his team's being able to keep up with Nebraska. He said so prior to the game. And he was right, once the Cornhusker offense got cranked up.

Just 12 minutes into the game, which was televised regionally by ABC, Penn State led 14-0. But the Cornhuskers responded with four second-quarter touchdowns, the first two on passes from Tim Hager to All-America tight end Junior

Miller, and pulled away.

After Penn State's second touchdown, the Blackshirts - led by first-team All-Big Eight performers Kerry Weinmaster (middle guard), Rod Horn (tackle) and Derrie Nelson (end) - wouldn't allow another for 20 consecutive quarters, a stretch including three straight shutouts.

Nebraska finished the season ranked No. 5 nationally in total defense, No. 2 against the run.

Junior I-back Jarvis Redwine, who had paid his own way to transfer from Oregon State, came off the bench to rush for 124 yards on 22 carries. It was the first of 10 games in which he would rush for 100-or-more yards during his two seasons at Nebraska. He also went through six tearaway jerseys during the game, a reflection of the influence of Mike Corgan, his position coach.

Corgan, nicknamed "Iron Mike," emphasized physicality, taking on tacklers, rather than the sideline-to-sideline tendency

Penn State 17, Nebraska 42

Penn State	14	0	3	0	-	17
Nebraska	0	28	0	14	-	42

- (PS) Brad Scovill 14 pass Doyle Tate (Herb Menhardt kick)
- (PS) Tom Wise 30 interception return (Menhardt kick)
- (N) Junior Miller 11 pass Tim Hager (Dean Sukup kick)
- (N) Miller 70 pass Hager (Sukup kick)
- (N) Kenny Brown 16 run (Sukup kick)
- (N) Andra Franklin 5 run (Sukup kick)
- (PS) Menhardt 35 field goal
- (N) Tim Wurth 7 run (Sukup kick)
- (N) Jim Kotera 4 run (Sukup kick)

Attendance: 76,151

Redwine had shown at Oregon State.

Isaiah Hipp, the starting I-back (and Big Eight's leading rusher), was hampered by a turf-toe injury and carried only 12 times before giving way to Redwine.

Hager, a junior who walked on from Lincoln (Neb.) Southeast High School (where he was coached by then-Nebraska freshman coach Frank Solich), had begun fall camp fifth on the depth chart but earned the start after coming off the bench to direct a 24-21, comeback victory at Iowa the previous week. He became the first quarterback from Lincoln to start for the Cornhuskers since the mid-1950s. Penn State, which went into the game 1-1, finished the season 8-4.

TOM OSBORNE: "My stomach was getting a little nervous when we were down by 14."

DID YOU KNOW? Joe Paterno, in his 14th season at Penn State, was the winningest active NCAA Division I football coach, with a record of 124-26-1 (.826). The previous season, the Nittany Lions went into a Sugar Bowl game against Alabama ranked No. 1, only to lose (14-7) and finish fourth. The meeting was the first against Nebraska since 1958 and just the seventh all-time, with Penn State holding a 4-2 advantage.

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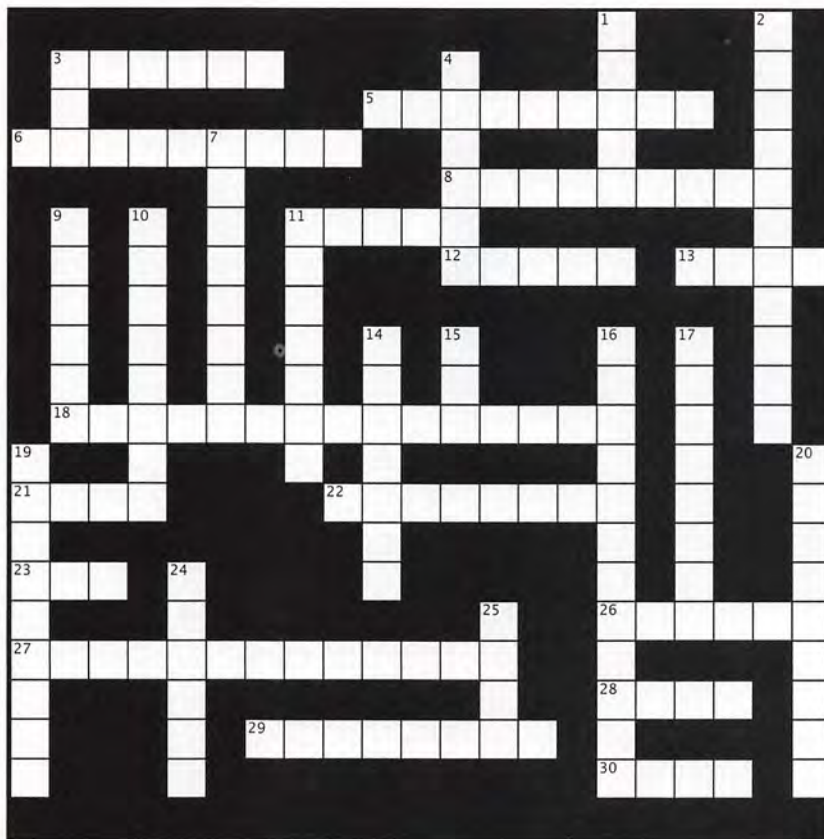
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ACROSS

3. Radio play-by-play announcer
5. Head coach in 1951
6. Bo Pelini's alma mater
8. 1982 Outland Trophy winner
11. Quarterback sidelined for season
12. True freshman quarterback
13. Ex-Husker now Tampa Bay linebacker
18. Florida Atlantic head coach
21. Florida Atlantic nickname
22. Opponent in Big 12 opener
23. Network for NU-Virginia Tech game
26. Wears No. 4 (defense)
27. Sept. 12 opponent
28. Network for NU-Missouri game
29. 1999 Big 12 Conference champion
30. Running back on Doak Walker Watch List

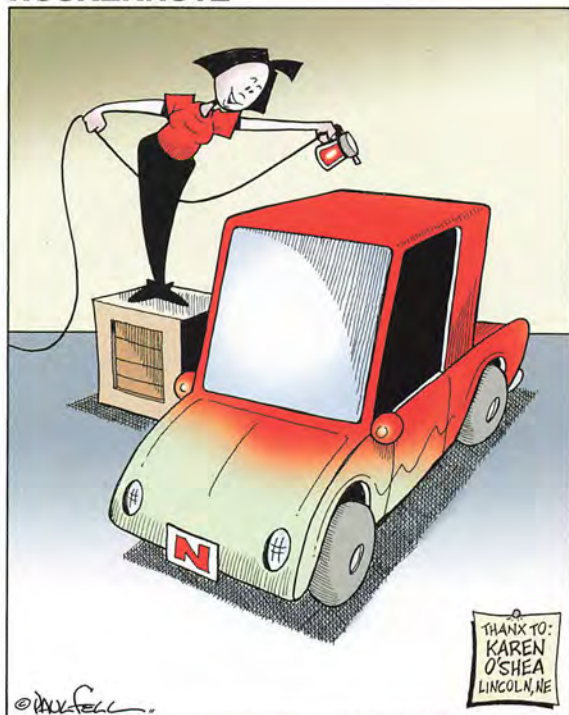
DOWN

1. Wore retired No. 64
2. 1983 Lombardi Award winner
3. Returning All-Big 12 selection
4. Assistant athletic director for football
7. Wears No. 3 (defense)
9. Wears No. 1 (offense)
10. Defensive ends coach
11. Florida Atlantic's conference
14. Tight end on John Mackey Award Watch List
15. Wears No. 5 (offense)
16. First road opponent
17. 2008 Big 12 Conference champion
19. Florida Atlantic campus location
20. Barry Turner's home state
24. Kicker on Lou Groza Award Watch List
25. Running backs coach



Answers will appear in the Sept. 12 issue

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THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Walk-ons rewarded with scholarships

BO PELINI WAS UPSET with him Jeff Jamrog told Mike Caputo during the second week of pre-season practice. In fact, Jamrog told Caputo, Pelini was going to revoke his scholarship.

"Coach, I don't have a scholarship," Caputo responded.

"Well, you do now," said Jamrog, assistant athletic director for football.

Caputo recalled the encounter following practice on the first day of university classes in late August. He had begun fall camp as a walk-on but would finish as a scholarship player.

He was among six walk-ons who signed scholarship papers that week. A couple of days later, Pelini announced their names to the team and then, after a scrimmage, to the media.

In addition to Caputo, a sophomore, they include seniors Colton Koehler, Derek Meyer and Wes Cammack, and juniors Dreu Young and Alex Henery. All are from Nebraska, four from small towns: Harvard, Campbell, DeWitt and Cozad. Caputo and Henery are from Omaha.

Between their signing and the official announcement, the new scholarship players were asked not to say anything – to anybody. "It was hard," said Young. "My parents kept asking me, 'Are you going to get one?' I tried to hint at it, but I didn't want to say anything."

He managed to maintain his silence, calling his parents, who were visiting in Denver, only after Pelini told the team. "My dad kind of had an idea about what I was talking about before," Young said. "Dad was happy; he said he has an excuse to buy some land now."

The financial considerations of being on scholarship are obvious.

"I won't have to pay loans after school," said Cammack, who had an academic scholarship the first four years at Nebraska. His major is agricultural engineering, his grade-point average 3.888.

"It ran out last year," Cammack said of the Regents Scholarship. "So I was really pleased."

Beyond the money, a scholarship represents respect "for the hard work you put in," said Cammack. "I'm not a big emotional guy, so I kept most of it in. But I was really excited."

Cammack came to Nebraska because of its academic offerings, hoping to walk on. His high school coach sent the former Cornhusker staff film, but he had to prove himself in a tryout.

Koehler had to try out, too, following a semester at Nebraska Wesleyan.

Meyer sacrificed two seasons of eligibility in transferring from Kansas State, where he was a scholarship recruit and played five games in 2006 before being sidelined by injury.

Caputo had a scholarship offer from Southeast Missouri State, Young from Colorado School of Mines. Just before letter-of-intent-signing day, Nebraska finally contacted him.

Young never regretted his decision to walk on. Except for not being able to join his friends when they went to pick up scholarship checks, he never saw a difference.

"I felt like I've been treated the same since day one," he said. "I mean, I've been given a fair shot. I played when I earned

it. I don't feel like I've been cheated out of anything."

Henery turned down a soccer scholarship at Creighton to walk on at Nebraska. By the end of last season, it was apparent that when a scholarship became available he would get one.

Early in pre-season practice, he could always anticipate two questions from reporters. One related to his school-record, 57-yard field goal against Colorado, the other to his getting a scholarship. His answer to the second was the same: "It'll come with time, so I'm not too worried."

Nebraska's walk-on program, which took life under Tom Osborne because of NCAA scholarship reductions, has long been the national standard. Though Bill Callahan, who didn't embrace it initially, down-sized, it survived – five of the six scholarship recipients walked on under Callahan.

Pelini has restored the spirit of the program, talking about walk-ons during his letter-of-intent-day news conferences and including freshman walk-on capsules in the media guide.

Cammack was asked if he had kept track of scholarship numbers to gauge the possibility of his being awarded one this fall. "Honestly, no, because sometimes you don't know who's on scholarship," he said. "You're not really counting – but always hoping."

Caputo was told he'd have an opportunity to earn a scholarship when he walked on, but he didn't expect to get one this soon. "It was a huge sign of respect from the coaches," he said. **N**



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2009 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Results
Sat, Sep 05	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sep 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sep 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, VA	TBA
Sat, Sep 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thu, Oct 08	at Missouri *	at Columbia, MO	8 p.m., ESPN
Sat, Oct 17	Texas Tech *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct 24	Iowa State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct 31	at Baylor *	at Waco, TX	TBA
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov 14	at Kansas *	at Lawrence, KS	TBA
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri, Nov 27	at Colorado *	at Boulder, CO	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Dec 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, TX (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)	TBA

* Conference games



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